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**Introduction**

Mayo County Archives acquired this substantial collection of poor law union archives from Mayo County Library by official transfer in July 1997. The collection had been under the protection of the Library since the 1980’s. Without the Library’s intervention and care it is likely the records may have persisted, or possibly have been transferred to a national archival institution outside the county of Mayo.

The collection provides a valuable account of, and detailed information, chronicling the administration of the Ballinrobe Poor Law Union and it’s workhouse. The collection illustrates the sophistication of Union administration, how it was governed and functioned on a daily basis. It also illustrates the control exerted over the Union and it’s Board of Guardians by central government, first through the Poor Law Commissioners and later through the Local Government Board. The collection reveals how the pauper inmates of the workhouse were treated and regarded by administrators and contemporary society. References to the punishment book, at the Board of Guardian meetings as recorded in the earlier minute books, reveal the severity with which any breach of workhouse discipline was dealt. The collection does not give voice to the experiences and sufferings of the inmates but does provide an account of the conditions (as reported by administrators) under which they existed.

In addition the collection provides an important account of social and economic conditions in the Ballinrobe Union district during the second half of the nineteenth century, including the period of the Great Famine, and the first quarter of the twentieth century. It also provides an insight into the development of various social services - primarily medical and sanitary services, such as the provision of sewers and water pumps, and social housing - and the impact such services had on the infrastructure of the county and the lives of it’s inhabitant.

##### **Poor Law Unions**

The poor law act for the *‘more effectual Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland*’’ was introduced to Ireland by the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1838 and operated until 1923. Under the Act the country was divided at first into 130, later increased to 163, different poor law union administrative districts, each of which had a workhouse paid for by locally collected poor rates. The Union areas in Ireland were formed by describing an area of ten miles radius around each market town. Initially the Act did not permit outdoor relief, assistance and relief to the destitute poor was granted only in a workhouse. Each Union was under the close supervision and control of a central governing body, originally the Poor Law Commissioners and after 1872 the Local Government Board.

Five workhouses were initially established in Mayo, at Ballina, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Swinford, and Westport. Later in the early 1850’s additional workhouses, at Belmullet, Claremorris, Killala and Newport were opened.

A Board of Guardians, consisting of two thirds elected and one-third ex-officio members, had direct responsibility for the administration of the union workhouses. The Board regulated, ratified and controlled, subject to approval from the central governing body, all aspects of Union administration. It was responsible for the erection, maintenance and administration of a workhouse. In addition to providing directly for the poor and the day to day administration of the workhouse, the poor law guardians gradually accumulated further responsibilities. For instance, in the early 1850’s they also assumed responsibility for the provision and management of dispensaries to provide free medical attendance for the sick poor, for the boarding-out of children from the early 1860’s, and from 1883 under various Labourers Acts they was responsible for the provision of houses for agricultural labourers. The administration of the sanitary services was reorganised and codified under the Public Health (Ireland) Acts of 1874 and 1878. Under these acts the municipal corporations and town commissioners were appointed sanitary authorities for the larger urban areas and Boards of Guardians became the sanitary authorities for the rural areas and smaller towns.

Under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 county councils and rural district councils were established. The poor law guardians were also the rural district councillors; the same individuals but working in a separate capacity. The district councils were granted responsibility for the Unions’ functions relating to housing and sanitary services. These functions were in turn transferred to council councils in 1925 following the dissolution of rural district councils.

From 1898 the Boards of Guardians were ‘restricted to poor relief and dispensary district work and were relieved of their power to strike a poor rate’[[1]](#footnote-1). When the Poor Law was abolished in 1923 these remaining functions were transferred to county councils, administered by Boards of Health and Public Assistance. The workhouses were replaced by a system of county homes for the old and infirm and hospitals for the sick. Outdoor relief was replaced by home assistance.

**Ballinrobe Poor Law Union – a summary review**

The site for Ballinrobe workhouse, measuring 6 acres, 1 rood, and 36 perches, was acquired free of charge from Colonel Knox, local landowner and member of the Board of Guardians (PL3/BR1/3, f355). The building, including fixtures and fittings cost in the region of £8,400. The date for the first admission to the Ballinrobe Poor Law Union workhouse, which originally had a capacity to house 800 inmates, is 26 May 1842[[2]](#footnote-2).

Board of Guardian elections were held every March. The elected members were generally made up of local magistrates, landowners and land occupiers. A chairman, vice and deputy chairmen were elected at the first meeting of the new board. Members were also appointed to various committees, such as the Finance and Visiting committees, and ratepayers were elected members of the Committees of Management to the three dispensaries.

During the height of the famine in July 1847 the Poor Law Commissioners temporarily dismissed the Board of Guardians in Ballinrobe, along with many others in the country, believing they were inefficient and incompetent of carrying out their functions adequately. The Commission appointed

paid officials for a short period to take over the administration of the Union. In December 1847 the Poor Law Commissioners ordered an increase in the salary of the paid officers, *‘….in exercise of the powers vested in us in this behalf we the Commissioners for administering the laws for relief of the poor in Ireland do hereby order and direct that the salary payable at the rate of £150 per annum to the said Messrs Robert Lecky and Arthur Thomas out of the rate of Ballinrobe … shall be increased by an allowance to each out of the said rates….’* (PL3/BR1/5, p129).

Prior to boundary changes in 1853 the Ballinrobe Union administered the electoral divisions of Ballindine, Ballinachalla, Burriscarra, Claremorris, Cong, Hollymount, Kilmolara, Kilmaine, Mayo, Partry, Roben, Ross and Shrule. Thereafter the Union administered the divisions of Ballinrobe, Ballinachalla, Ballyovey, Burriscarra, Cappaghduff, Cong, Coonard, Dalgan, Hollymount, Houndswood, Kilmaine, Kilcommon, Neale, Newbrook, Owenbrin, Partry, Portroyal, Roslee and Shrule.

The Union was initially divided into two dispensary districts to administer the Medical Charities Act, 1851. Under the Act the Guardians were empowered to appoint medical officers and supply necessary medicines and appliances. A medical officer was required to give free medical advice, treatment and medicines to poor persons resident in the dispensary district and later report on sanitary conditions and nuisances.

Following a request by the Guardians and protracted correspondence with the Poor Law Commissioners (see PL3/BR1/39, 40 and 42), a third district was established in 1869. The three dispensary districts covered the following areas:

1. Ballinrobe district, covering Ballinrobe, Portroyal, Ballyovey, Cappaghduff, Kilmaine and Neale ;
2. Cong district, covering Cong, Houndswood, Dalgan, Shrule, Ballinachalla, and Owenbrin; and
3. Hollymount district, covering Hollymount, Coonard, Kilcommon, Newbrook, Burriscarra, and Roslee.

The minutes of the Board of Guardians’ meetings reveal how the authorities reacted to and dealt with the ‘*unprecedented famine’* (PL3/BR1/9, p329) of the late 1840’s, and to subsequent periods of local distress. Several entries in the minutes reveal the Board of Guardians’ awareness of the distress that existed in the Union and it’s appeals to government to extend assistance to alleviate the distress. For instance the Board wrote to it’s local MP, Lord Lucan (Castlebar) requesting ‘*That part of the present Poor Law Act which prevents the admittance of an individual of a family unless all its members enter the House, be amended and a discretionary power in such cases be given to the Guardians’*  (PL3/BR1/3, f379).

The Board later passed a resolution stating *‘...in consequence of the report of the Chairman as to the frightful state of destitution which exists at present in the Electoral Division of Party and we ourselves this day having an opportunity of witnessing this same from the numbers that crowded at the gate of the workhouse in the hope of getting admission therein and thus obtaining relief which the paid Guardians are unable to afford the House being already filled. We call upon the Chairman of the paid Guardians to represent to the Government the urgent necessity of giving out door relief immediately to the poor of this Division else the consequences will be awful’* (PL3/BR1/5, p110).

Following the provision of additional accommodation in temporary sheds, the number of persons maintained by the Union reached over 4,000 in July 1850. Some ten years later the Board received a letter a copy of a government Order limiting the number of persons to be maintained in the workhouse and fever hospitals, thereafter the total number of inmates for which accommodation was to be provided for was 644 (PL3/BR1/26, f115).

An account in a local newspaper reported in 23 March 1847 that the Ballinrobe *‘workhouse is in the most awfully deplorable state, pestilence having attacked paupers, officers, and all. In fact, this building is one horrible charnel house, the unfortunate paupers being nearly all victims of a fearful fever, the dying and the dead, we might say, huddled together. The master has become the victim to this dread* (sic) *disease; the clerk, a young man whose energies were devoted to the well-being of the union, has been added to the victims; the matron, too is dead*.....’[[3]](#footnote-3). Less than three years later, while the effects of the famine still raged, a report submitted by the workhouse Visiting Committee to the Board in 1851 stated ‘*that the House was clean and regular, with the exception of the Women’s day room which was very dirty, and disorderly,… and that No.2 infirmary ward should be flagged, as the rats eat the poultices off the bodies of the patients’* (PL3/BR1/10, f278).

Following a directive from the Poor Law Commissioners in 1847 out door relief was granted ‘.... *Whereas it has been shown to our satisfaction that by reason of want of room in the Workhouse of the said Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein to destitute poor persons not being permanently disabled or destitute poor persons disabled by sickness or accident or destitute poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, and it is expedient to authorise and empower the paid officers acting in execution of the duties of the Board of Guardians of the said Union to administer relief out of the workhouse to such destitute poor persons for a limited time as hereinafter mentioned.…. And we do hereby make the following rules and regulations, as to the quantity, ordering and giving of relief to all persons who shall be relieved by the said paid officers….’* (PL3/BR1/5, p121-122).). Recipients of out-door relief were employed in relief schemes, generally non-productive in nature, such as breaking stones. In June 1849 over 29,000 persons received out-door relief.

Another measure undertaken to assist the sick and dying during the famine period was, following a directive from the Poor Law Commissioners, the establishment of fever hospitals in several places throughout the Union district. (PL3/BR1/5, p17). During the late 1840’s the Board also operated a scheme of assisted emigration from the Union. Only in a few instances are emigrants names listed in the minute books.

The number of recorded deaths among the workhouse inmates for the duration of the famine varied week to week. The surviving minute books reveal that prior to spring 1849 the average number of deaths was below 20 per week. However, for the week ending 24 March 42 deaths were recorded. Dr Twiss, Medical Officer wrote to the Board at the beginning of April 1849 stating *‘The very great increase of mortality amongst the inmates of the Ballinrobe Union Workhouse influences me to direct your attention to the general diet of the Establishment…’* (PL3/BR1/7, p211). By the end of April the number of deaths peaked at 136. For several months thereafter deaths generally fluctuated between 20 and 40 per week.

Due to the burden of financing relief to the poor, and it’s inability to collection rates the Board was, by 1850, in substantial debt. It wrote to the Poor Law Commissioners outlining the deplorable state of it’s finances, stating that it’s *‘liabilities at this moment amount upwards of £3,500’* (PL3/BR1/9, p211).

Prior to the 1860’s the Guardian’s attention was constantly directed to dealing with and settling various disputes and clashes that occurred between the Roman Catholic chaplain, for the most part involving Reverend Thomas Hardiman (Ballinrobe parish priest) and Protestant chaplains and Union officials. The importance attached to religious education, religious sermons and the administering of last rites to dying inmates is illustrated by the constant reference to them by the Board’s at it’s meetings. In 1858 the Poor Law Commissioners wrote to the Union advising that *‘...where the religion of a child’s parents, guardians or sponsors could not be ascertained, and where the Guardians did not know of any one competent to object to the child’s being educated in the workhouse in any Religious Creed, the child should be educated in the religion of the state....’* (PL3/BR1/21, f248).

A government circular was issued to all Boards of Guardians in 1881 recommending that Sisters of Mercy be engaged as nurses in all workhouses. The Sisters of Mercy in Ballinrobe had in April 1860 proposed taking charge of the workhouse hospital, without any remuneration. However at that time the Board responded to the ‘*kind intentions of the Sisters’ ,* but stated as it was ‘*perfectly satisfied with the present order of things, it does not deem it expedient to make a change’* (PL3/BR1/24, f226). When their appointment as paid nurses was eventually confirmed in 1862 it met with some opposition. The minutes record that one Guardian, James Ruttledge was of the opinion that ‘...*Nuns or Sisters of Mercy are unfit to be paid officials in a Union workhouse...’* (PL3/BR1/30, f236).

Reference, in the Board’s minute books, to disease is regular. For instance an epidemic of typhus and relapsing fever occurred during the height of the famine. In the mid 1870’s smallpox appeared to be common in the Ballinrobe district, and in the early 1890’s there was also constant reference to typhus fever.

In 1898 with the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act county councils and rural district councils were established. The Ballinrobe Rural District Council took over responsibility for many of the Guardians functions. The Board of Guardians and the Rural District Council was comprised of the same individuals, and both organisations shared facilities and staff. For instance the Clerk of the Union also acted as the Secretary of the council. For this reason many of the records, such as the letter books include outgoing letters from both organisations.

Ballinrobe workhouse was temporarily occupied by the military authorities for a period during the War of Independence (1919 –21).[[4]](#footnote-4)During the war a dual system of central government existed. The British government maintained the Local Government Board in Dublin as it’s central local government administrative authority. As a result of the local elections of 1919 Sinn Fein supporters were elected to many county and district councils, and to boards of guardians. A Department of Local Government was established as part of the Provisional Government’s administration by the first Dail in January 1919 (regarded as illegal by the British authorities). As the War of Independence progressed the Department was increasingly recognised by the county and district councils throughout the county. There were therefore two central local government authorities for a short period. During 1921-22 several county councils, together with the department set up by Dail Eireann, established schemes to alter the poor laws and reorganise the local administration. The first priority was the dismantling of the workhouse systems[[5]](#footnote-5). The Ballinrobe workhouse and hospital were dispensed with in October 1921. Newly formed Council Boards of Health and Public Assistance assumed Union functions not previously transferred to the Rural District Council.

**Arrangement**The collection consists of a range of different types of records, such as minute books, financial records such as ledgers, porter’s book, chaplain’s book, and letter books. The collection is divided into various sections, arranged chronologically, commencing with the most prolific group of records, Board of Guardian minute books and financial records. Subsequent sections, also arranged chronologically, generally contain a variety of records relating to specific aspects of administration such as workhouse or infirmary administration, and outdoor relief.

Some of the later entries in various records relate and pertain to the Ballinrobe Rural District Council. Similarly some of the records in the district council collection have entries relating to the Union, as a result it may also be appropriate to consult the relevant collection (R2/BR1).

For preservation and security purposes the collection has been microfilmed. Funding for microfilming of the collection was awarded, to Mayo County Council, under the UNESCO Participation Programme for the year 1998/99.

##### **P McWalter**

##### **Archivist**

##### **1999**

##### Related Collections:

##### Collections held Mayo County Archives:-

* Ballinrobe Rural District Council collection (R2/BR)
* Board of Health and Public Assistance collection (HP3) (regarding provision of labourers’ cottages).
* Minute Books of Mayo County Council (M15)

National Library of Ireland, Dublin

* Ballinrobe Poor Law Union Minute Books, 1896 – 1908, and 1918 – 1923 (with gaps)
* Ballinrobe Poor Law Union Ledger 1859 - 1860

##### Suggested further reading:

Burke, Helen *The People and the Poor Law in Nineteenth Century Ireland*

 Dublin, 1987

Daly, Mary *The Famine in Ireland*

 Dundalk, 1989

Edwards, R Dudley, & *The Great Famine: studies in Irish History* 1845-52
Williams, T.D. (eds.) Dublin, 1956

Hamrock, Ivor (ed.) *The Famine in Mayo 1845 - 1850; A Portrait from Contemporary Sources*

 Mayo County Library Publication, 1998

Handran, George B *A Re-print of Poor Law Union Pamphlets of the General*

 *Registrar’s Office*

 USA, 1997

Lane, Padraig G *Glimpses of the Famine in Mayo* in Cathair na Mart

 Journal of the Westport Historical Society, No. 17, 1997

MacHale, Rev. E *The Famine in Mayo* in North Mayo Historical Journal 1986/87

 (North Mayo Historical and Archaeological Society)

Meghen, P J *The Development of Irish Local Government* in Administration

Vol.8., No.4, Winter 1960

Mulloy, Bridie *Itchy Feet and Thirty Work*

Lough Mask & Lough Carra Tourist Development Association, Ballinrobe, [1992]

Roche, Desmond *Local Government in Ireland*

Institute of Public Administration, Dublin 1982

O’Connor, John *Workhouses in Ireland : The fate of Ireland’s poor*

 Dublin, 1995

Smith, Cecil Woodham *The Great Hunger*

London, 1962

Swinford Historical Society *An Gorta Mor, Famine in the Swinford Union*

*Appendix A*

# Members of the Board of Guardians[[6]](#footnote-6)\*

1. Algie, Allan J.J (Dalgan Park, Shrule)
2. Blake, Charles J
3. Blake, Dominick E
4. Blake, Henry J
5. Blake, Joseph S
6. Blake, Major Maurice C J (Forresthill, Ballyglass; Chairman, 1882 - 1894;) transcript of letter of resignation 11 October 1894 stating *‘I find that it will be impossible for me in the future to give the attendance and attention to the affairs of the Union I consider it necessary a Chairman should...’* (PL3/BR1/92, p681)
7. Blake, Richard, (Dowagh, Cong )
8. Blake, Valentine O’Connor [Secretary of the Grand Jury]
9. Bourke, Peter, (Bunadubber, Ballinrobe)
10. Boycott, Charles C (Lough Mask House, Ballinrobe)
11. Boyle, Patrick
12. Burke, Patrick (Chairman, 1908 )
13. Burke, William, Ballinrobe
14. Brennan, Thomas
15. Bowen, Christopher
16. Bowen, Francis C
17. Bowen, Robert
18. Browne, Dominick [Lord Kilmaine]
19. Browne, John
20. Burke, Martin
21. Burke, Patrick
22. Burke, Walter
23. Bucknell, John Lindsay ((Kilmaine) Chairman, 1854))
24. Clarke, V A
25. Cleary, Thomas
26. Clooney, Thomas
27. Colleran, John
28. Conroy, Thomas (Chairman, 1903, 1906-07)
29. Conroy, John
30. Costello, P J (Chairman, 1911)
31. Conway, Simon
32. [Cronnie], Captain
33. Cuffe, James, [Elm House, Belcarra, descendent of Cuff the ‘Baron Tirawley of Ballinrobe’] (+1851)
34. Cunningham, John.W.
35. D’arcy, Martin
36. [Darley] George,
37. Dawson, Edward Joseph Grant
38. Dooley, John (Chairman, 1900)
39. Donnellon, John O’Neill
40. Donnellon, Stephan (+1888)
41. Donohoe, Michael, (Kill, Shrule)
42. Dungan, Matthew
43. Egan, J.P
44. Elligott, David
45. Elwood, Captain
46. Elwood, Thomas [Magistate, Strandhill, Cong] (Chairman 1844)
47. Elwood, John
48. Elwood, Ormsby
49. Fair, Robert Ruthledge
50. Fair, Thomas
51. Fair, John
52. Fair, Robert
53. Farragher, Murtagh
54. Feerick, Michael H
55. Fitzpatrick, Martin
56. Flannery, W
57. Flood, Thomas
58. Gaffney, Edward
59. Garvey, Thomas
60. Gibbons, Patrick
61. Gildea, Anthony Knox
62. Gillier, James, (Ballinrobe)
63. Glynn, Martin
64. Grehan, James
65. Griffin, John
66. Hearne, John (resigned 1877)
67. Henghan, Patrick
68. Hennelly, John (Chairman, 1902)
69. Heraghty, Thomas
70. Heskin, Stephen
71. Heverin, John
72. Higgins, Patrick
73. Hughes, Patrick
74. Hughes, Thomas
75. Hildibrand, George, (Westport)
76. Holmes, Robert
77. Hynes, Michael
78. Jackson, James E
79. Jennings, Benjamin W
80. Jennings, Charles (Mountjennings, Hollymount)
81. Jennings, John Sr.
82. Jennings, J Jr.
83. Jennings, Patrick (Chairman, 1904 - 05)
84. Joyce, William
85. Kaine, Laurence
86. Keady, Thomas
87. Kelly, John [1850 ] - 1860
88. Kelly, Walter (+1861)
89. Kenny, Courtney ([Chairman, 1859 - 1860] (+1863))
90. Kenny, Stanhope (Ballinrobe)
91. King, Patrick
92. Kirwan, C.L.
93. Knox, Colonel Charles ([Chairman, 1861 -1866 ] (+1867))
94. Knox, Colonel Charles Howe (Cranmore) (Chairman 1871 - 1882)
95. Knox, Colonel Charles (Creagh House, Ballinrobe)
96. Kyne, Anthony
97. Lally, John
98. Lambert, Alexander C, ((Cong Abbey, Cong (Chairman, 1845))
99. Laurie, Francis
100. Lewin, Frederick Thomas (Castlegrove, Tuam & Cloghan House, Cloghans Hill, Tuam)
101. Lindsey, Major Thomas Spencer (Hollymount)
102. Lucan, The Earl of (The Park, Castlebar)
103. Lynch, Charles Joseph (Ballycurren Castle)
104. Lynch, Major General Edward P
105. Lynch, Captain Henry B
106. Lynch, John F, ((Partry House, Ballinrobe (Vice Chairman 1851))
107. Lynch, Richard
108. Martyn, Alexander ((Curraghmore, Ballinrobe) (Vice Chairman 1879, Chairman 1894))
109. Martyn, Geoffrey, ((Curragmore, Ballinrobe), (Chairman 1849 – 1859, Justice of the Peace)) +(1869)
110. Mayne, Isaac, (Dowagh, Cong)
111. Mellett, Redmond
112. Miller, Croasdail Bowen, (Milford, Hollymount) (+1880)
113. Miller, Ormsby Bowen (Milford, Hollymount)
114. Monahan, Patrick
115. Moore, George Henry (Moore Hall)
116. Morris, Arthur
117. Moran, Patrick
118. Mullen, Thomas
119. Mulroe, J
120. Murphy, Thaddeus
121. McCausland , Edward Oliver
122. McDonnell, Myles, (Burriscarra) (+ 1865)
123. McDermott, Patrick
124. McGing, P
125. McNamara, John
126. Nally, Garrett
127. Nally, Thomas
128. Newell, J
129. O’Boyle, Patrick
130. O’Brien, Mark
131. O’Flaherty, Thomas
132. O’Malley, Peter
133. Pearse, Parsons (Summerhill, Ballyglass)
134. Regan, Peter
135. Reilly, Anthony
136. Rutherford, George (Turin Castle, Kilmaine)
137. Ruttledge, James (also a County Coroner)
138. Ruttledge, Colonel Robert ((Bloomfield, Hollymount) (Chairman, 1869 - 1871))
139. Ruttledge, Thomas (+1877)
140. Ruttledge, William E
141. Ryan, John
142. Ryan, M M (Chairman, 1909-10)
143. Spellessy, William
144. Stanners, Timothy
145. Swords, John
146. Tighe, Robert, (Ballinrobe) (+1872)
147. Tighe, Thomas
148. Tynan, James F
149. Walsh, John (Castlehill)
150. Walsh, Martin (Chairman 1921)
151. Walsh, Myles
152. Walsh, Nicholas, (Ballinrobe )
153. Walsh, Thomas Wilson, (Garristown, Ballinrobe)
154. Whelan, Thomas
155. Willis, William, (Hollymount)
156. Wilson, James
157. Wilson, Thomas

#####

***Appendix B (i)***

**Ordnance Survey Map, 1900**

**of**

**Ballinrobe town and demesne**

***Appendix B (ii)***

**Ordnance Survey Map**

**Sheet 85, 1899**

 **(scale: 1 inch to one statute mile)**

**of**

**Ballinrobe and surrounding district**

***Appendix B (iii)***

**Ordnance Survey Map**

**Sheet 6, 1899**

 **(scale: 4 miles to one inch)**

**of**

**Ballinrobe and surrounding country**

**(south and west Mayo)**

***Appendix C (i)***

# Lists of some Union officials

**Paid Officers Appointed by the**

**Poor Law Commissioners, 1847 – [1848]**

* Briscoe, H. H.
* Cary, Captain W. (from Carlow, Co. Carlow) ;
* Ellis, Mathew
* Fishbourne, William
* Lecky, W Robert (Ballinacarrig, Co. Carlow)
* Scroop, Henry
* Thomas, Arthur (from Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow)
* Waddy, John

***Appendix C (ii)***

Workhouse Masters, 1842 - 1919

* Cunningham, Pat, (1842 – 1843, dismissed)
* Thompson, James, (1844 – 1846)
* Murphy, William ([1847] - 1848 ; transferred to Carlow Union)
* Finn, Pat (April 1849 , on one month’s trial))
* Flynn, Michael (April 1849, resigned from fear *‘upon death of Matron from cholera’* (PL3/BR/7 p243))
* Murphy, James ((1849 ; previously worked at Cavan union)
* Nugent, Charles (1850 - [1855])
* Mullin, John ([1855],1856 -1859) (transferred to Galway Union workhouse in February 1859 )
* May, Joseph (1859 - 1858 )(brother of Thomas May, Clerk of Union)
* Glaster, Maurice (1859 - 1870) (transferred to Sligo Union Workhouse)
* Bruen, Edward, (1870 - December 1872; transferred to Mountbellew Workhouse
 county. Galway)
* Cunningham, John (1873 - 1882)
* Farragher, Patrick (1882 – 1888, following enquiry asked to tender his resignation PL/BR1/81 f138))
* Concannon, Michael (1889 – [1919])
* Staunton, Thomas [1919 - ]

***Appendix C (iii)***

Clerks of the Union, 1842 - 1921

* Wilson, James (1842 – 1843)
* Hearne, Edward, (1844 - +1847)
* Kelly, David (1847 - resigned in December)
* Evan, Matthew (John) [1847 - 1849 )
* May, Thomas (1849 - 1889 (asked to resign in 1889),
* May, Thomas junior (Acting Clerk 1886 - 1889 intermittently during his father’s various absences)
* Walsh, John (1889 – 1921)
* Gleeson, Michael (1921-25)

***Appendix C (iv)***

Hospital Matrons, 1842 - 1919

* Cunningham, A (1842 – 1843)
* Kelly, Margaret (1844 - 1849 [died of cholera])
* Murphy, Margaret (1849, +June 1849 died of cholera) (wife of Master)
* Barry, Anne Maria (1849 - ?)
* Jennings, [ ? - 1861, resigned)
* O’Grady, Cecelia (1861- 1871, resigned due to ailing health)
* Fahey, Mary (1871 - 1885?)
* Honoria Byrne (1885 - ?)
* Staunton, Ellen [1919? - ?]

***Appendix C (v)***

Protestant Chaplains, [1850 – 1919]

* Anderson, Reverend James [1850] - 1863 (+1863)
* Brownrigg, Reverend George Oliver [1863 - 1881]
* Treanor, Reverend James (1882- [1919])

## Roman Catholic Chaplains, 1850 - 1919

* Morris, Reverend John (+1850)
* Hugh, Reverend J K (1850 - ?)
* Hardiman, Reverend Thomas (18? - 1856; 1858 - 1865 , 1867-74)

Following dispute with the schoolmaster he was asked to resign by Poor Law Commissioners (December 1856); re-instated in 1958, served as Chaplain from 1858 until he resigned in 1865, and served again when re -appointed in 1867 until his death (+10 November 1874)).

* Lydon, Reverend Daniel (1865-1866)
* Grealy, Reverend Dominick (1866 - 1867)
* Barrett, Reverend John (1874 - ?) temporary chaplain
* Ronayne, Reverend James (1875 - ?)
* Dalton, Reverend E A [1919]

***Appendix D (i)***

**Some Union Statistics**

**Population of Ballinrobe Union district, 1851 - 1891**

1851 => 37,703

1861 => 31,558

1871 => 29,276

1881 => 28,130

1891 => 28,130

#### Number of inmates in Ballinrobe Workhouse, 1847

September => 423

October => 658

November => 791

December => 837

**Number of Inmates in and Number of Persons**

**Relieved Out of Ballinrobe Workhouse, 1848**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date****(week ending)** | **No. of Workhouse Inmates** | **No. of Persons Receiving Outdoor Relief** |
| January  | 670 | --- |
| November  | 1,541 | 7,751 |
| November 23  | 1,527 | 7,125 |
| November 30 | 1,604 | 6,756 |
| December 7 | 1,827 | 6,682 |
| December 14 | 1,993 | 6,773 |
| December 21 | 2,226 | 7,103 |
| December 28 | 2,217 | 7,472 |

***Appendix D (ii)***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

Number of Inmates in and Number of Persons

Relieved Out of Ballinrobe Workhouse, 1849

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date****(week ending)** | **No. of Workhouse Inmates** | **No. of Persons Receiving Outdoor Relief** |
| January 4 | 1,761 | 8,407 |
| January 11 | 1,758 | 9,775 |
| January 18 | 1,967 | 11,788 |
| January 25 | 2,137 | 13,857 |
| February 1 | 1,981 | 16,017 |
| February 8 | 1,717 | 17,097 |
| February 15 | 1,582 | 17,659 |
| February 22 | 1,567 | 19,334 |
| March 1 | 1,841 | 20,414 |
| March 8 | 2,165 | 21,452 |
| March 15 | 1,886 | 22,239 |
| March 22 | 1,881 | 23,112 |
| March 29 | 1,857 | 23,881 |
| April 5 | 1,841 | 24,014 |
| April 12 | 1,795 | 24,315 |
| April 19 | 1,830 | 25,106 |
| April 26 | 1,676 | 25,330 |
| May 3 | 1,417 | 26,103 |
| May 10 | 1,349 | 26,992 |
| May 17 | 1,434 | 28,002 |
| May 24 | 1,547 | 28,434 |
| May 31 | 1,728 | 28,475 |
| June 7 | 1,734 | 29,231 |
| June 14 | 1,749 | 29,333 |
| June 21 | 1,830 | 29,699 |
| June 28 | 1,830 | 28,790 |
| July 5 | 1,755 | 29,199 |
| July 12 | 1,845 | 28,128 |
| July 19 | 1,649 | 28,588 |
| July 26 | 1,546 | 28,572 |
| August 2 | 1,527 | 28,448 |
| August 9 | 1,442 | 27,764 |

***Appendix E (iii)***

**Number of Inmates in and Number of Persons**

**Relieved Out of Ballinrobe Workhouse, 1850**

**(capacity of workhouse ranged between 2,580 - 3,159)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date****(week ending)** | **No. of Workhouse Inmates** | **No. of Persons Receiving Outdoor Relief** |
| April 26 | 2,706 | 1,536 |
| May 3 | 2,906 | 1,509 |
| May 10 | 3,148 | 1,397 |
| May 17 | 3,359 | 1,395 |
| May 22 | 3,645 | 1,418 |
| May 32 | 3,800 | 1,580 |
| June 7 | 3,672 | 2,133 |
| June 14 | 3,863 | 2,723 |
| June 21 | 3,940 | 3,741 |
| June 28 | 3,989 | 4,378 |
| July 5 | 4,150 | 4,556 |
| July 12 | 3,948 | 4,492 |
| July 16 | 3,765 | 3,815 |
| July 26 | 3,548 | 3,325 |
| August 2 | 3,338 | 3,205 |
| August 9 | 2,911 | 2,870 |
| August 16 | 2,712 | 70 |
| August 30 | 2,190 | 88 |
| September 6 | 2,047 | 10 |
| September 13 | 2,005 | 11 |
| September 20 | 1,926 | 12 |
| September 27 | 1,818 | 9 |
| October 11 | 1,709 | 7 |
| October 18 | 1,699 | 2 |
| October 25 | 1,686 | 2 |
| November 1 | 1,640 | 0 |
| November 8 | 1,637 | 4 |
| November 15 | 1,435 | 9 |
| November 22 | 1,430 | 6 |
| November 29 | 1,455 | 6 |
| December 6 | 1,457 | 0 |

# A. Minute Books of the Board

# of Guardians, 1844 - 1899

Volumes recording details of attendance and proceedings of weekly meetings relating to the maintenance, administration and financing of the workhouse, distribution of out-door relief, and the care of workhouse inmates relating to their accommodation and employment, and to medical, pastoral, educational, and dietary needs. Minutes include details on the number of persons accommodated in the workhouse, and the number receiving outdoor relief ; confirmation that various reports, financial and other records, such as the Workhouse Register, Provision Check Accounts, Out-door Relief Lists, Medical Officers’ books and reports of the Visiting Committee, the workhouse Master and other Officers’ were produced, examined and approved together with details of required action relating to the information provided therein, and details of all monies received or paid, and all orders and cheques given, such as those required for the supply of food and clothing; details of rates collected, arrears, and declared irrecoverably in each electoral division ; also includes details of orders and letters received from or written to the Poor Law Commissioners and others, and details of subsequent resolutions passed and instructions issued authorising required action; details of the master’s report and resolutions adopted to address any issues raised therein ; and from 1854 provision is included for minutes of the proceedings of the Board under the Medical Charities Acts and Nuisances Removal and Disease Prevention Acts, and subsequently under Public Health Acts ; from 1874 the proceedings of the Board as the Sanitary Authority are recorded ; and from 1893 the proceedings of the Board of Guardians acting as the Rural Sanitary Authority under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts are included.

The minutes are generally dated, and signed by the Clerk of the Union, the Chairman and two other Guardians. Many of the earlier volumes include an index to main resolutions passed and subjects discussed.

Proceedings include :-

* Details of the state of the workhouse at the end of each week noting the total capacity and number of inmates accommodated in the workhouse, temporary buildings, additional workhouse, permanent fever hospital and fever sheds ; and the number of able-bodied males and females, aged and infirm persons, and adult persons above 15 years of age, but not working, the number of boys and girls above 9 and under 15 years of age, the number of children above 5 and under 9, above 2 and under 5, and infants under 2 years of age remaining in accommodation from the previous week, admitted in the preceding week, discharged or which died during the week ; also includes the return of *‘Sick and Lunatics’* recording the number in the workhouse hospital and in the fever hospital, and the number of ‘*lunatics and idiots*’ in the workhouse.
* From 1870 details of the number of night lodgers or casuals housed in the workhouse, split into categories for males, females and children, and records from the end of 1871 the number remaining at the close of the week. Also includes from 1870 the total number of workhouse inmates for the corresponding period in the previous year.
* Returns of *‘DESTITUTE PERSONS relieved out of the Workhouse, as by Relief Lists’* recording the number of destitute persons receiving outdoor relief in the relief districts.
* The Clerk’s Report on the execution of Orders previously issued by the Board, dealing primarily with the administration of rate collection, together with other financial details submitted by the Clerk, including the total income and expenditure for each week and the resultant Guardian’s debit or credit balance ; details of lodgements made by rate collectors for each electoral division and the amount outstanding ; details on the status of the Account of Petty Disbursements; confirmation that various accounts such as the Clothing Accounts, Medical Officers’ Books, Weekly Relief List and Abstract, Provision Check Accounts, and Provision Receipt and Consumption Account were produced and approved, and the cost of provisions and necessities received during the week is recorded together with the general average cost of an inmate for the week, together with the average cost in the infirmary and fever hospital ; includes list of required provisions and necessaries, such as ‘*4lb. starch, 2 Gallons whiskey, 1 Bottle wine, 2½ tons ryemeal, 7 stone onions, 184 boxes turf, ¼ ton oatmeal, 1 load bogwood, 1½ tons Indian meal, 11cwt flour, 2cwt wholemeal....’* (PL3/BR1/10, f3), together with approval to obtain the required items.
* Confirmation that records relating to the provision of out-door relief, such as Out-door Relief Lists, Weekly Receipt and Expenditure Books, Abstract of Out-door Relief Lists were produced and approved, also records total expenditure in out-door relief.

* Confirmation that the requirements of the Relieving Officers were considered, and records details of cheques and orders issued to Contractors noting the article and quantity required and it’s value.

* Following the report and recommendation of the Finance Committee details of approval granted for payment from various accounts, such as a clothing account, establishment account, and workhouse invoice account, for various supplies and services noting the name of the creditor, item purchased and amount, such as *‘Charles Conroy for Meal’,*(PL3/BR1/10, f36), and *‘William Egan for plank’, Thomas Ruttledge rate collector for fees’,*and *‘John Fair for building a boundary wall at Kilmaine Auxiliary’* (PL3/BR1/10, f67). Also includes, generally on an annual basis, a schedule of persons contracted, based on tenders supplied by them, to supply articles and materials, such as foodstuffs and cleaning equipment for the next year.

* Details of the Visiting Committee’s report, such as
* *‘Stating that the House was clean and regular’* (PL3/BR1/10, f4);
* *‘… in their opinion* (Visiting Committee) *there are many able bodied paupers in the House who remain in it more from idleness and indolence than destitution*’ (PL3/BR1/10 f20)
* *‘The punishment Book was produced and the punishments inflicted by the Master were read by the Clerk as follows :- ......for climbing the boundary wall and quitting the workhouse premises, confined for 3 hours in Refractory cell, and milk and soup stopped for two days, Approved of, further punishment ordered by the Guardians, to be confined for 10 hours each day for two days in refractory cell, milk and soup to be stopped during that period’* (PL3/BR1/10, f20);
* *‘Resolved that 3 boxes be procured by the Master for measuring the stones broken by the paupers and that each able bodied pauper be required to break 2 boxes of stones fit for road-making daily and that the food of each pauper who may not accomplish his work be stopped until performed and that a report be laid before the Board by the Steward on each Board day, stating the amount of stones broken and the work done during the week’* (PL3/BR1/10, f40);
* *‘Resolved, that it be referred to the Visiting Committee to recommend to the Board the best manner in which the Assistant Schoolmistress can be accommodated in the main body of the Workhouse’* (PL3/BR1/10, f156);
* ‘*....On my visiting the Infirmary I found a child in a dying state crying for a drink of water, his lips and tongue quite parched, but no nurse or wardsmaid to attend him. In another ward I found four children in one bed, and three in other beds. If the head nurse has too much to attend to, I would recommend the Board to appoint a Fever Hospital nurse, and let the present nurse fill her former situation as Infirmary nurse....’* (PL3/BR1/10, f180);

* ‘*Stating that the House was clean and regular, with the exception of the Women’s day room which was very dirty, and disorderly, the cooking of food being carried on there, also suggesting that a press should be provided in the Inspection Room, for the use of the Medical Officer, and that No.2 infirmary ward should be flagged, as the rats eat the poultices off the bodies of the patients’* (PL3/BR1/10, f278).

In some instances transcripts of, or simply summarised details, of the Master’s and Officers’ (such as the Clerk) reports together with details of any required action following examination of the report by the Board. Examples of required action and orders include :

* ‘*That the Master do put up Iron Bars on one of the windows of the Temporary sheds, and lay before us on next Board day an Estimate of the expense of putting Iron Bars on all the windows of the Temporary sheds’* (PL3/BR1/10, f4);
* ‘*The Master reports that he has not sufficient men or boys in the House to cultivate the Potato or do the necessary work of the House, upon which it was Ordered that the able-bodied Women be employed for these purposes’* (PL/BR1/14, f15); and
* *‘The Master states that Mary Macken an inmate of the Workhouse applied for her discharge she being about to proceed to England where her Brother resides ... He also stated that her clothing is very bad - Ordered that a shawl value for £0.2.1 be provided for her’* (PL/BR1/14, f159).
* Details of directions given following Orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, such as
* *‘... arrangements as are necessary for the performance of Divine Service for the Protestant Inmates should be provided,..’* (PL3/BR1/10, f13) ; and
* ‘*... requesting a return showing the Annual amount of remuneration to each of the officers of the Union employed in the Education or Industrial training of the children’* (PL3/BR1/10, f245).

* Details of letters read from the Poor Law Commissioners and others, such as Secretary of the Lunatic Asylums Commission (Ireland) (PL/BR1/19, f85), and details of resolutions which followed, such as
* *‘That the Clerk be instructed to obtain for the Protestant inmates a supply of bibles, Books of Common Prayer Church Catechisms.’*  (PL3/BR1/10, f13); and
* letter from the Census Commissioners requesting *‘...co-operating of the Board in taking account of the population of the Union, whereupon it was ordered that the Master be directed to give every possible information regarding the matter’*  (PL3/BR1/10, f117).
* Confirmation that details for provisional relief and applications for relief were considered, and decided on, with details of the number granted or denied admission to the workhouse, and the number granted provisional out-door relief, continued relief and other applicants in the Relieving Officers Books relieved by order of the Guardians.
* Details recorded under the Medical Charities Act, and Nuisances Removal and Disease Prevention Acts, subsequently the Public Health Acts, relate to the administration of dispensaries in the Union, recording details such as estimates for required medicines, salaries and expenses incurred, any letters and reports received, such as from the Sanitary Committee, and resolutions and orders passed. Following each annual election of Guardians, generally in March, includes the names of rate-payers elected as members of the Committees of Management of the Dispensary Districts.

* Details recorded under the proceedings as the Sanitary Authority include reports from the Sanitary Officers for the various districts, details of letters from the Local Government Board and resolutions passed relating to sanitary and health related matters, such as sewerage works, water supply, fever, and burial grounds, such as
* *‘...our clerk be directed to write to the different landlords through whose lands the Bulkaun river runs to obtain from them their consent to allow the Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union to protect the river named from being polluted it being the principal source from which the town and neighbourhood of Ballinrobe obtain drinking water’* (Pl/BR1/89, p607).

Also includes details of expenses incurred and cheques issued.

[1]

[2]

3. 20 June 1844 - Includes resolutions stating *‘we regret that owing to the state of our*

26 February 1846 *funds the Relief given to the Poor of this union for the last year*

*had been to a very limited amount, the average number of inmates*

*in the house for the period being not more than sixty, although*

*capable of containing and intended for relief of eight hundred persons’* (p60) ; and order for the Clerk to forward a resolution to ‘*Lord Lucan in reply to his letter of the 14th February inst. to our Chairman : “That That part of the present Poor Law Act which prevents the admittance of an individual of a family unless all its members enter the House, be amended and a discretionary power in such cases be given to the Guardians.*

*That that part of the present English Poor Law Act which authorises the authorities in that Country to send back Irish paupers to their native parishes after spending the best part of their lives in England, be amended and that any person who had resided in that Kingdom for any term not less than five years be considered a nationalised Englishman and not liable to be transferred..... and that the expense of building the several workhouses throughout the country shall be defrayed by Government”’* (f379).

 380ff

[4]

5. 16 September 1847 - Includes details of a letter from the Poor Law Commissioners

 13 January 1848 informing the Vice Guardians *‘that there are to be eight Fever*

*Hospitals in the Union at the following placed: Ballinrobe*

*Kilmain* [Kilolara]*, Claremorris, Party, Ballyhally, Ross, Kilmaine,*

*and Cong’* (p17) ; *‘It was resolved that an application should be made, to the Commissioners for the issue of loans for public works for the sum of £1,150 to be expended on the erection of a Fever Ward in connection with the Workhouse of this Union...’* (p29); ‘*The Vice Guardians beg to call the attention of the Commissioners to the present state of the workhouse. The Commissioner will perceive, that the inmates, including these admitted this day amount to 820, being 20 over the number for which the House was intended to accommodate…and have been obliged to turn away 160 persons seeking admission’* (p51) ; report from Doctor Twiss *‘... fever is very much on the increase for the last three weeks prior to which time it was on the decrease. I attribute its spreading to the numbers (over 400 new inmates) admitted since the 30th last month, crowded together into a house already teeming with infection and not having accommodation provided for them. The Hospital is very much crowded and is incapable of continuing the number of patients at present sick in the institution. Under these circumstances in my opinion it would be injudicious to continue the admission of paupers.’* (p57) ; ‘*... There is very lamentable defiancy in bedding which makes it necessary to put three persons in some beds. There are three dormitories unoccupied on this account. The Vice Guardians have not means of remedying this evil as their funds are insufficient to cover the ordinary expenses...’* (p67); and that ‘*...in consequence of the report of the Chairman as to the frightful state of destitution which exists at present in the Electoral Division of Party and we ourselves this day having an opportunity of witnessing this same from the numbers that crowded at the gate of the workhouse in the hope of getting admission therein and thus obtaining relief which the paid Guardians are unable to afford the House being already filled. We call upon the Chairman of the paid Guardians to represent to the Government the urgent necessity of giving out door relief immediately to the poor of this Division else the consequences will be awful’* (p110).

 181pp

[6]

7. 16 November 1848 - Includes in some instances lists of persons who died in the preceding

 9 August 1849 week, giving the names, date and cause of death; order that

 *‘Mr Huston Manager for the contractor for erection of the new*

*workhouse in the land lately in treaty between the Commissioners and*

*Mr Lambert, Agent of Col. Knox, he reported to the Board while sitting that he was obstructed by Joyce & Dowdall claiming to be tenants in possession of the premises*....’ (p107) ; transcript of letter from Dr Hastings Twiss stating *‘The very great increase of mortality amongst the inmates of the Ballinrobe union workhouse influences me to direct your attention to the general direct of the establishment. I would suggest to have some proportion of rice say one forth mixed with the Indian meal for stirabout and as milk is not to be got at present I would prefer the paupers getting coffee in place of cocoa or broth both of which have been found to disagree with the complaint in this institution.* (p211) ; and *‘The Vice Guardians acknowledge to have received from the Commiserat office £471 in aid of the maintenace of the destitute poor of this Union’* (p248).

 415pp

[8]

9. 26 April 1850 - Includes entries such as *‘Resolved that we apply to the Poor Law*

 13 December 1950 *Law Commissioners to send 50 orphan girls to Australia in the*

*same manner that the last emigrants were sent from this Union’.* (p10) ; *‘Resolved that a boys school be established in the workhouse to consist*

*of about 300 boys of the most enlightened class and to be placed under the charge of the head schoolmaster. The assistant schoolmaster to take charge of the remaining school boys at Kilmain…’* (p68); and *‘Read letter from the Marquis of Sligo stating that the tenants* *in Coonard Electoral Division are making preparations to sell or conceal their crops to avoid payment of Poor Rates, and requesting the Board to call the attention of their collector to it’* (p306); *‘Resolved….relative to the consolidation of the debts and liabilities of this union we beg most respectfully to represent the very peculiar circumstances in which we find ourselves placed not with a view of repudiating our debts but in the hope of inducing the Poor Law Commissioners to make such representations to the Lords of Her Majesty’s Treasury as will procure for us not only the longest period for the payment of the necessary annuity but prevent that addition charge being placed on the rates until this Union shall have become self supporting and enabled to find the funds necessary for the present relief of the pauperism which from five years of an unprecedented famine have left chargeable on the resources of an almost exhausted district, we have to state that in several divisions of this Union the rate required for the relief of the paupers amounts 15/15 – 15/1¾ severally according to the estimate on which we have struck a few days since rate to the amount of £8,311 on a valuation of £39,556.19.3.’* (p328-329).

 401pp

10. 20 December 1850 - Includes arrangements for the celebration of Protestant and Roman

 3 October 1851 Catholic divine services, and disagreements and tensions between

 the Chaplains and the Board’s involvement and reaction to same (such as

 ff223-225, 230-232, 238-240, 271, 273, 289, 319-320) ; including

transcript of a letter from Geoffrey Martyn, Chairman, to the Board and to be forward to the Poor Law Commissioners stating *‘...Gentlemen, in reply to this I beg to state distinctly that my object in wishing that the Revd. Mr Hardiman should apologise for his conduct was not to gratify my private feelings as stated in the Commissioners Letter, but believing that the Chaplain would pay but little respect to the opinion of the Commissioners, when it appears that he forgot that respect and reverence which a clergyman should observe in the House of God, and perverted his pulpit into a Theatre for the exhibition of his bad passions and the promulgation of uncharitable and slanderous denunciation against me, I deemed some apology or declaration from the chaplain necessary as a guarantee to this Board and to myself against a repetition of his conduct. The result proves the justice of this opinion....* (he) *repeated his denunciation of the Catholic Guardians of this Board in terms most distressing to all but more particularly to me of our most useful and upright members’* (f319-320); details of a diet for inmates as recommended by the Medical Officer, Roughan, George J. (f195); details of the Estimates adopted by the Board based on expenditure from September 1850 to June 1851, recording for that period the average number of *‘paupers relieved’* for each division and costs incurred (f256); queries from the Revising Valuator, Ruttledge, Thomas to the Board regarding the revision of the valuation of the Union (f272) ; and details of a resolution passed by the Castlebar Board of Guardians *‘submitting to the consideration of the Government the difficulties and hardship of making provision for the repayment of the annuities now demanded in the present distressed state of these Unions, and requesting the co-operation of the Board of Guardians of this Union* (Ballinrobe) *in that respect’* (f311).

 343ff

[11]

[12]

[13]

14. 27 April 1854 - Includes details relating to the assisted emigration of sixty persons from

 19 October 1854 the Union to Quebec (such as ff22, 28-29, 51, 112, 134) ; details of reductions in officers’ salaries, such as those for the Master, the schoolmistress, matron, apothecary (pharmaceutical chemist), and baker

(ff196-197); resolution *‘that the Board having proceeded to inspect the inmates at present*

*relieved in the workhouse are of opinion that the following parties could procure employment*

*in the country if they sought for it, and are no longer proper objects for workhouse relief....’*

(f244), and resolution *‘that opinion of the Board is that it would be for the mutual interest of*

*the ounties of Mayo and Galway, that the Midland Railway be carried forward from Athenry*

*to the [nearing] of the County of Mayo at Foxhall by a branch through the Town of Tuam ...’*

(f318).

 322ff

[15]

16. 3 May 1855 - Includes transcript of letter from Lieutenant General, the Earl of

 18 October 1855 Lucan, Hanover Square, London, stating *‘... I request that you will*

 *express to the Board of Guardians how much gratified I am at so*

 *flattering an expression of their estimation of my services during the*

*time that I was allowed to form part of the brave Army of the East (C*rimea)*. I value nothing more than the good opinion of my fellow Countrymen, to a Soldier it is the highest reward...’* (f18) ; includes details relating to the establishment of an agricultural class for young boys (such as f40-41, 88, 173) ; includes minutes of joint committee meeting of the Boards of Guardians of the Ballinrobe and Claremorris Unions regarding outstanding arrears (ff174-175); and resolution confirming the amalgamation of the Office of Clerk and Workhouse Master stating ‘*...Mr Thomas May Clerk of the Union be appointed to fill both Offices at his present salary with Rations - this arrangement to take effect from and after the 28th day of December next. Mr Mullen the present Workhouse Master to be served with Notice that his services in that capacity will not be required on and after that date’* (f317, 319).

 323ff

17. 25 October 1855 - Includes details relating to a building ‘*proposed to be erected on the*

24 April 1856 *Workhouse premises for the purposes of a Dispensary...’* (f20, see also

 f180, 220, 240, 250) ; resolution that *‘the proposed line of railway*

 *from Strokestown to Castlebar, can be of no benefit, or advantage, to*

*the southern portion of this County, particularly to the Barony of Kilmaine, and that, we therefore will use every effort in our power to prevent any taxation or charge on our Barony, for the purpose of guaranteeing interest on the capital expended on that line’* (f65) ; further discussion and matters arising relating to the amalgamation of the offices Master and Clerk and the Poor Law Commissioners’ objection to such a course of action (such as f26, 66, 85, 94, 97, 105, 115, 194, 216).

 270ff

[18]

19. 1 November 1856 - Includes transcripts of various letters from Maher, John,

5 November 1857 Union schoolmaster, and Hardiman, Revd. Thomas, R.C. Chaplain to the Board regarding a disagreement relating to the religious instruction given to the school boys, including a letter from Maher

advising that Hardiman in a Sunday sermon said *‘I brought books into the school that*

*would cause them* (the school children) *to change their faith, that I belied my parish priest*

*and my Chaplain, and that I was a Shuffler, that it was the devil that was putting it into my*

*mind ...’* (f26), and details of a Poor Law Commissioners letter requesting Hardiman’s

resignation (f65) ; and ‘*Resolved that having considered the great diminution of pauperism*

*in the County of Mayo, and the improved condition and prospects of the Country in every*

*point of view ; this Board consider it highly expedient that the number of Unions be reduced*

*to the number established on the first introduction of the Poor Law in this Kingdom, and*

*that the new Unions formed to meet an emergency created by the Famine years should be*

*dissolved and incorporated with the parent ones, so that the Establishment Charges which*

*are now vastly disproportionate to the cost of direct relief afforded to the paupers may be*

*reduced to an amount commensurate with the proper supervision of the Poor Law*

*Administration’.* (f46).

 525ff

[20]

21. 20 May 1858 - Includes details of sealed Order from the Poor Law Commissioners

18 November 1858 appointing Hardiman, Revd. Thomas Chaplain of the workhouse (f15); report that half of the workhouse potato crop has been affected and rendered useless by potato blight (f238) ; and transcript of a

letter from the Poor Law Commissioners stating that *‘...where the religion of a child’s*

*parents, guardians or sponsors could not be ascertained, and where the Guardians did not*

*know of any one competent to object to the child’s being educated in the workhouse in any*

*Religious Creed, the child should be educated in the religion of the state....’* (f248).

 273ff

22. 25 November 1858 - Includes notice of receipt of letter from Browne, Lord John, MP

 19 May 1859 stating *‘...that he will present the Petition of* the Board of Guardians

 against the “Rateable Property Bill” to the House of Commons

 immediately on the re-assembling of Parliament’ (f35) ; and various

entries relating to the re-appointment of Anderson, Revd. James to the office of Protestant Chaplain (such as f35-36, 45-46, 65).

 261ff

23. 26 May 1859 - 17 November 1859 253ff

24. 24 November 1859 - Includes transcript of letter from the Sisters of Mercy, Ballinrobe

 17 May 1860 proposing to undertake the charge of the workhouse hospital,

 stating ‘*The Sisters of Mercy propose to undertake the charge of Workhouse Hospital and Infirmaries without expecting any*

*remuneration for their Services. The Sisters chief care would be to secure order, cleanliness,*

*economy, and the comfort of the sick poor. They would strictly adhere to the directions of the*

*Physician, which they would take in writing if necessary....The Sisters would not interfere with*

*religious principles, confining themselves to the instruction of members of their our faith....’*

(f217, see also f226).

 261ff

[25]

26. 22 November 1860 - Includes details of letter from the Poor Law Commissioners

16 May 1861 transmitting a copy of an Order limiting the number of persons to be maintained in the workhouse and Fever hospital (f115).

 257ff

27. 23 May 1861 - 14 November 1861 261ff

28. 21 November 1861 - Includes resolution in response to a letter from Revd. Hardiman stating

 15 May 1862 *‘...that in cases of destitution, where the head of a family is excluded*

 *from receiving relief in consequence of occupying more than a quarter*

 *of an acre of land, the Guardians are empowered to admit into the*

*workhouse the families of such persons. The Guardians will however decide each case on its individual merits’* (f255).

 257ff

29. 22 May 1862 - Includes transcript of letter from Waldron, Revd. Michael, Parish

 13 November 1862 Priest, Cong stating *‘It is my painful duty to place before your Board the urgent necessity of granting Outdoor Relief to 24 families in the parish for two months from the date of this application, or of receiving*

*into the workhouse the said families if the Government will not allow out door relief as in*

*England...’* (36f).

 272ff

30. 20 November 1862 - Includes various entries relating to the appointment of Sisters of Mercy,

 14 May 1863 of the Convent of Ballinrobe as paid nurses in the workhouse hospital,

(such as f185, 235, 245, 251), including an objection issued by Ruttledge, James (Poor Law Guardian) to the appointments as he is of

the opinion that ‘...*Nuns or Sisters of Mercy are unfit to be paid officials in a Union workhouse...’* (f236); and resolution stating  *‘the Board of Guardians of Ballinrobe Union consider it their duty to acquaint the Central Relief Committee that they have seen with surprise, in the newspapers, that a sum of money had been sent by the Central Relief Committee to the Ballinrobe Relief Committee. The Board of Guardians was not aware that such a Committee existed at Ballinrobe until they saw it mentioned in the Newspapers.*

*That no meeting had been called at Ballinrobe to consider the propriety of forming such a Committee, ....it would appear that this so-called Ballinrobe Relief Committee was secret and self constituted.*

*The Board of Guardians.... respectfully call on the Central Relief Committee to require an account of the disbursement, in order that the benevolent intentions of the subscribers to the fund may be properly carried out, and that the public may see that the money has been applied to the purposes for which it was intended’* (f256 - 257).

 261ff

31. 24 May 1863 - 5 November 1863 251ff

32. 12 November 1863 - 5 May 1864 261ff

33. 12 May 1864 - 3 November 1864 261ff

34. 10 November 1864 - Includes transcript of the Master’s report which states *‘that some*

4 May 1865 *cases of bad typhus fever have been* a*dmitted into the fever hospital*

 *within the last week, suitable provision has been made for them - The*

 *Matron finds some difficulty in persuading any of the paupers to act as*

*Nurses in the Hospital, their reluctance arises from fear of contagion’* (115f).

 261ff

35. 11 May 1865 - Includes details relating to Revd. Hardiman’s (Roman Catholic,

 2 November 1865 Chaplain) resignation (see ff245-246, 255).

 261ff

36. 9 November 1865 - Includes entries relating to a cattle plague prevalent in England and

 26 April 1866 Scotland (such as ff115, 135, 175, 205).

 247ff

37. 3 May 1866 - 25 October 1866 261ff

38. 1 November 1866 - Includes resolution of sympathy following death of Knox, Colonel

25 April 1867 Charles, Chairman of the Board *‘... whose conduct in the Chair which for so many years he filled with such integrity, dignity and courtesy has impressed them* (Board of Guardians) *with a deep sense of the*

*loss they have sustained, and that the Board desire to offer to the Lady Louisa Knox and her*

*family, their sympathy and condolence in their melancholy bereavement’*(f207).

 257ff

39. 2 May 1867 - Includes details of an extra-ordinary meeting held relating to the

 24 October 1867 division of the electoral division of Ballinrobe into three dispensary

 dispensary districts, and an ongoing disagreement following a sealed

 order from the Poor Law Commissioners stipulating that the district of Ballinrobe, Kilmaine, Neale and Portroyal should contribute to the cost of the new (third) dispensary district including the four electoral divisions of Cappaghuff, Ballinchalla, Ballyovery and Owenbrim, in addition to their own (f188-190).

 257ff

40. 31 October 1867 - 23 April 1868 261ff

41. 30 April 1868 - 22 October 1968 261ff

42. 29 October 1868 - 22 April 1869 257ff

43. 29 April 1869 - 21 October 1869 261ff

44. 28 October 1869 - 21 April 1870 257ff

45. 28 April 1870 - 3 November 1870 448pp

46. 10 November 1870 - Includes resolution stating ‘*That we respectfully and earnestly invite*

18 May 1871 *the attention of the Marquees of Hartington, Chief Secretary for*

 *Ireland, to the difficulty which the Ballinrobe Board of Guardians as a*

 *sanitary body finds in protecting the public from the pollution of the*

*rivers, the waters of which are used for all domestic purposes..... That the waters of the “River Robe” flowing through Ballinrobe and supplying the inhabitants are being hourly polluted, and that this Board finds itself unable to check this serious evil under the existing state of the Law.*

*This Board now begs leave to enclose to the Marquees of Hartington a correspondence from the Major commanding detachment of 17 Lancers now stationed in Ballinrobe complaining of the pollution of the water, but the Board has replied that as the Law stands it cannot abate the evil. The Board now hopes that the “Sanitary Act” may be so amended as to enable Boards of Health to discharge their duties more efficiently on this head, as reform is much needed in this respect’* (f217).

 225ff

47. 25 May 1871 - 30 November 1871 224ff

48. 7 December 1871 - Includes many enters relating to an alleged case of negligence on the

 30 May 1872 part of a Relieving Officer which indirectly resulted in the death of a

 woman, and the defence offered by the Doctor in question and the

 Board of Guardians on his behalf to the Poor Law Commissioners,

such as ‘*That the Board having carefully considered the Commissioners letter, fully concurs with them as to the grave importance of the subject involved ; but while it accepts the views of the Commissioners as to the necessity of their visiting with the most severe punishment, Officials who are guilty of neglect or disregard of their duties towards the sick or suffering poor ; Yet the Board hopes, the Commissioners will mercifully consider the case of the Relieving Officer, who about this time was struggling and battling against a fever, caught in the discharge of his duties and subsequently his life was despaired of for several days...’* (f220).

 265ff

49. 6 June 1872 - 5 December 1872 270ff

50. 12 December 1872 - 5 June 1873 260ff

51. 12 June 1873 - 4 December 1873 270ff

52. 11 December 1873 - Includes entries relating to the proposed dissolution of the Oughterard

 28 May 1874 Union (county Galway) and amalgamation of its electoral divisions with the Unions of Galway and Ballinrobe, (such as f215, f235).

 243ff

53. 4 June 1874 - 19 November 1874 258ff

54. 26 November 1874 - Includes summary of sanitary report from Dr Twiss, Sanitary Officer

27 May 1875 for the Ballinrobe district advising that *‘..there were several new cases*

 *of small pox in the town of Ballinrobe and that some of the persons*

 *attacked with that disease had been sent for treatment to the Fever Hospital of the Workhouse. He also reported that he had vaccinated near 400 persons within the last three weeks, and adopted such sanitary measures as he considered necessary to prevent the spread of the disease.’* (f35) ; also includes details of a report from Reilly, John, Relieving Officer advising the Board of the receipt of two eviction notices, one in the Ballinrobe electoral division in the case of Hession, Patrick versus Connelly, Peter and one in the Cong Electoral division in the case of Guinness, Sir Arthur Edward, MP versus Malony, James and others. The Notices were handed to the Clerk to be deposited with the Union Records (f186).

 243ff

55. 3 June 1875 - 2 December 1875 243ff

56. 9 December 1875 - Includes several entries regarding the Board’s opinion and decision

 8 June 1876 to become, for the purpose of increasing the remuneration of national

 teachers, a contributory Union under the terms of the National School

 Teachers (Ireland) Act, 1875 (such as f126).

 297ff

[57]

58. 21 December 1876 - 21 June 1877 243ff

59. 28 June 1877 - Includes transcript of letter from Robertson, I Scott [Commissary]

27 December 1877 General in Ireland *‘I have had much pleasure in going over the House*

*with the Matron, who has kindly shown me all the dormitories, and*

*nothing could be sweeter or cleaner than the apartments, or better than*

*the supplies, seldom have I had more gratification than I have had today in seeing so much*

*order and comfort.’* (f49) ; details of circular letter from the Local Government Board advising of enquiry into *‘...Poor Law Unions and workhouses in Ireland, especially in regard to the numbers of such Poor Law Unions and workhouses, and to the provision now made for the sick and destitute poor in workhouses and hospitals, and as to whether any changes in that respect are necessary or desirable’* (f50).

 243ff

60. 3 January 1878 - 27 June 1878 228ff

61. 4 July 1878 - 26 December 1878 229ff

62. 2 February 1879 - 3 July 1879 538pp

63. 10 July 1879 - Includes transcript of letter from Kenny, Stanhope W J, Guardian,

 8 January 1880 and local land owner, to the Board proposing to lease for 99 years to the Rural Sanitary Authority land for the purpose of their sewage works (p439).

 538pp

64. 15 January 1880 - 1 July 1880 325ff

65. 8 July 1880 - 6 January 1881 351ff

(66)

67. 21 July 1881 - 19 January 1882 270ff

68. 26 January 1882 - 20 July 1882 260ff

69. 27 July 1882 - Includes entries relating to the appointment of and enquiry into the

 25 January 1883 character of the Board’s chosen candidate to replace the outgoing

 workhouse master (such as f195, f205 and f265). 270ff

70. 1 February 1883 - 2 August 1883 270ff

71. 9 August 1883 - 7 February 1884 324ff

72. 14 February 1884 - 21 August 1884 325ff

73. 28 August 1884 - 26 February 1885 324ff

74. 5 March 1885 - 3 September 1885 324ff

75. 10 September 1885 - 11 March 1886 323ff

76. 18 March 1886 - 16 September 1886 323ff

77. 23 September 1886 - 24 March 1887 324ff

78. 31 March 1887 - 29 September 1887 324ff

79. 6 October 1887 - 5 April 1888 324ff

80. 12 April 1888 - Includes a resolutions stating ‘*That we regard the action of the*

11 October 1888 *Government in imprisoning Mr Dillon for giving a just and perfectly*

 *legitimate advice to the people in their [worst] hour of trial as a gross*

 *gross insult to common Justice; and further, that we believe that the*

*sole object of Mr Balfour in thus maltreating Irish Representatives in such a cruel and barbarous manner, is to incite the people who have now become so patient under the leadership of such men as Messrs Parnell, Dillon and O’Brien, - to the committal of crime’ (*f138) ; and resolved that *‘...an independent individual be appointed to inquire into the administration of outdoor relief as there are various rumours and complaints regarding it, and the Local Government Board are requested to sanction and approve this resolution’* (f173, see also f185).

 324ff

81. 18 October 1888 - Includes transcript of letter from the Local Government Board

18 April 1889 requesting *‘... that the Guardians will be so good as to require her*

(Hospital Nurse*) to at once tender her resignation; and they are of*

 *opinion that it is not for the interest of the Union that Mr Farragher should be permitted to occupy any longer the important and responsible position of Master of the workhouse and they therefore request that he may be called upon for his resignation of that office*.’ (f113) ; and resolution stating *‘that we the Board of Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union protest against the brutal and inhuman treatment to which the noble headed William O’Brien has been subjected to in Clonmel Jail by cowardly Balfour the Barber when he had not the courage of meeting him openly in the House of Commons has him sent to Clonmel Jail to have him treated like a felon and pickpocket by his ruffianty hirelings’* (f198); and letter from the Local Government Board dated 16 April 1889 ‘*calling the attention of the Board of Guardians of Ballinrobe Union to the very unsatisfactory manner in which the duties of the Clerk of the Union have been discharged ....and his irregularity in transmitting the weekly returns of persons relieved in the Union as well as to his delay in not forwarding to the Auditor the abstracts of the Union accounts for the half-year ended 29 September last. The Local Government Board cannot any longer tolerate such conduct on the part of the Clerk of the Union, and the Board must therefore request the Guardians will call upon him to at once tender his resignation of his office.*’ (f317).

 324ff

82. 2 May 1889 - 31 October 1889 324ff

83. 7 November 1889 - 1 May 1890 728pp

84. 8 May 1890 - Includes resolution expressed regret in the *‘...conduct of the Galway*

 30 October 1890 *Grand Jury at the recent Assizes in refusing their sanction to the*

 *Tuam and Athenry extension to Claremorris Railway which imposed no*

 *tax whatever on them, which is in our opinion a most useful and much*

*needed line - one which would open up part of Galway and the markets of the South to the county of Mayo. And we respectfully request the Privy Council to sanction the line and to confirm the Presentment of the Grand Jury of the County of Mayo, made at the recent Assizes ; and we request the promoters to urge forward the works as speedily as possible so as to give employment during the temporary distress threatened in the thickly populated neighbourhood of the works.’* (p545). 728pp

85. 6 November 1890 - Includes a resolution where in the *‘..members of this Board desire*

 23 April 1891 *to bring under the notice of the Government the absolute state of*

 *want to which large portions of the Union are exposed, particularly*

 *along the western districts extending from Partry to Tourmakeady*

*where the complete wreck of the potato and other crops has taken away every means of support from the inhabitants during the Winter months and we also regret that no works have been introduced into this Union where so much requires to be done by way of draining and reclaiming large areas of waste lands ; the railway from Claremorris to Ballinrobe affording nothing in the way of general employment to the people’* (p33-34). 624pp

86. 30 April 1891 - 15 October 1891 624pp

87. 22 October 1891 - Includes resolution of sympathy on the *‘… lamented death of H.R.H.*

14 April 1892 *the Duke of Clarence and Avondale ; they* (the Guardians) *desire*

*most respectfully to express their sincere sorrow for the great*

*affliction that has fallen on Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen,*

*their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales....*.’ (p346-347) ; and adaptation of

the ‘*the resolutions passed by the Board of Guardians of the North Dublin Union at their*

*meeting held on the 23rd instant which propose to amend certain clauses in the Local*

*Government Board Ireland Bill as we believe that the duties which the Bill proposes to*

*transfer from Boards of Guardians to County Councils are more satisfactorily and*

*economically administered by Boards of Guardians than they can well be by County*

*Councils.’* (p563).

 620pp

88. 21 April 1892 - 13 October 1892 620pp

[89]

90. 24 April 1893 - 23 October 1893 750pp

91. 30 October 1893 - 30 April 1894 752pp

92. 7 May 1894 - Includes transcript of letter from Blake, Colonel (Chairman of

 5 November 1894 the Board) stating *‘I find that it will be impossible for me in the future*

 *to give the attendance and attention to the affairs of the Union I*

 *consider it necessary a Chairman should...’* (p681). 752pp

93. 12 November 1894 - Includes resolution stating the *‘Board observe with pain the utter*

16 May 1895 *destitution of a number of landholders in this Union with their*

 *families, consequent on the almost total failure of the potatoe crop.*

 *For many years and only in the recollection of the oldest member of the*

*Board has there been at this early period of the year such want for in many district of the*

*union particularly the mountain portion, landholders are already disposing of any means they*

*may have and are buying Indian-meal for themselves and their families. In a month hence if*

*not sooner the horrid scenes of ‘47 will be repeated if the Government do not devise some*

*means of employment for them....’* (p13-14); and letter from Drogheda Union forwarding copy

of Resolution passed by the Union calling on Parliament to *‘...have all judicial rents,*

*fixed up to the present revised or at least the coming three years... on account of the great*

*reduction in the prices of all farm produce in Ireland.*’ (p69).

 754pp

94. 23 May 1895 - Includes transcript of *‘memorial addressed to the Guardians*

 21 November 1895 *as the Rural Sanitary Authority bearing the signature of 131 person*

 *resident in town...’* requesting the Board to consider the *“great want*

 *of a proper water supply to the town....”’* (p303). 754pp

[95]

[96]

[97]

98. 17 June 1897 - Includes report from the Medical Officer of Health of the Hollymount

 16 December 1897 Dispensary District regarding the outbreak of fever in the district,

 stating *‘... That in his opinion the out break of typhoid fever in*

 *Hollymount was caused by a want of a supply of fresh spring water*

 *and bad drainage and recommending that the well be thoroughly cleaned out and a suitable*

*pump put up without further delay.’* (p443-444) ; and transcript of report in the Visitors Book stating ‘“*I am pleased to notice many improvements in the Infirmary since my last visit. It is very creditable and the inmates in sick wards look well cared for. I hear too that a little tea, sugar and tobacco is given to the old people not in the Infirmary which was badly needed but in other respects their diet needs improving both in regard to the food itself and to its variety, for they may be said to get the same food every day of the year except on New Years Day, Xmas Day, and Twelfth Day and Easter Sunday, that is oatmeal stirabout and milk for breakfast, bread and milk for dinner and bread and milk or tea of supper....” A.J. Seymour, London’*(p735).

 752pp

99. 23 December 1897 - Includes transcript of letter from the Local Government Board for

 16 June 1898 Ireland stating that *‘ in consequence of partial failure of the potato*

 *crop this year an increased demand for relief by persons residing in*

 *certain portions of the union may shortly be apprehended; that they*

*accordingly authorise the Guardians to administer relief out of the workhouse in food and fuel*

*to such destitute persons as they may consider require it ...’* (p9-10) ; and resolution stating

*‘That the Board of Guardians of Ballinrobe Union beg to bring under the notice of the*

*Government the injustice from which R Catholics suffer for want of University Education in this*

*country in keeping with their religious convictions and opinions. In this the R Catholics of*

*Ireland make no new demand and for this they shall always strive in the spirit of the*

*Resolutions passed from time to time by the Catholic Hierarchy of Ireland. The Board*

*therefore request the present powerful Government will no longer shelve this important*

*question but settle it once for all in the next session of Parliament’* (p70) ; also includes

resolution stating ‘... *nothing but Government aid can advert famine..... The Government should*

*at once come to the rescue and save from starvation her Majesty’s’ subjects.’* (p152) ;

includes list of tools required for relief works (p489) ; and confirmation that the Clerk of the

Union submitted ‘*lists of payments made to labourers, gangers and the timekeeper employed on*

*the relief works in progress in the union amounting to £63:9:9 and vouchers for the carriage of*

*tools £1...’* (p712-713).

 730pp

100. 23 June 1898 - 15 December 1898 730pp

[101]

102. 12 June 1899 - Includes resolutions stating the Board *‘...condemn, in the strongest*

 31 July 1899 *measure the action of Colonel Knox, in evicting several of his tenants*

 *around Glenhest and Ballinrobe, and we ask him, if he, again means*

 *to carry out his nefarious warfare against rack rented tenants, that was*

*carried on in the years of famine, pestilence, and starvation, by his vandal predecessors.’* (p65) ; and *‘...condemn it in the strongest manner the action of the packed bench of magistrates that sat in Cong, on Saturday to hear and decide the case against McKeowns emergency would -be-murderer charged with assaulting the United Irish League’s most able and ardent supporter Mr Kirwan, in attempting to take his life with a knife, which was proved and not contradicted and we regard the sentence of binding him to the peace and fining him the modest sum of 10/6 was a ere travisty of what ought to be the administration of even handed justice, and such punishment contrasted strangely with the sentence of one month’s imprisonment, without the option of a fine, imposed upon a poor country boy named Murphy, subsequently by Mr Bell at the same court, for merely striking another boy at the fair of Furishinang and we regard the action of Captain Jim of Militia fame as a dangerous member of the Tory magistracy, who they can always rely upon to do a dirty job against the people’s rights and the advocates of the League’* (p94).

Also includes on appended separate sheets Financial Minutes confirming various registers were examined, such as the Weekly Abstract of the Account of Provisions and Necessaries, and Abstract of the Accounts of the Relieving Officers.

The volume also incorporates the minutes of the first meeting of the Ballinrobe Rural District Council established under the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, which passed resolutions such as *‘… we* *the members of the Ballinrobe District Council wish to bring under the notice of the Mayo County Council the precarious condition of tenants in towns, and the grave necessity there exists for legislation between landlords and tenants in towns and cities. We consider that fair rents and fixity of tenure is as necessary in towns and cities as in rural districts accordingly we would suggest that the valuation and rents be fixed by a competent tribunal whose main feature would be to enable the tenants to become the owners of the houses they occupy’* (p82) ; and transcript of letter from the Honorary Secretary of the South Mayo Executive of the United Irish League stating *‘.... that we are glad to observe that Lord Sligo and Mr E Thomas O’Donnell of Newport have accepted the proposal made by Mr William O’Brien at the Claremorris meeting, that the landlords confer with the representatives of the people with a view to the sale of their estates to the Congested Districts Board, and we hereby request the Claremorris and Ballinrobe District Councils to open negotiations with the landlords in South Mayo with a view to getting them to follow the example of Lord Dillon, Lord Sligo, Lord Lucan and Mr E Thomas O’Donnell’* (p166).

 224pp

[103 – 109]

# B. Financial Records

## I. General Ledgers, 1841 - 1871

Volumes of ledgers detailing income and expenditure relating to various half yearly (commencing 25 March to 29 September) Union accounts such as Maintenance, Clothing, Emigration, Treasurer, Out Door Relief, Burial, Cholera Expenses, and Fever Hospital Expenses accounts, together with accounts for each of the electoral divisions, dispensary districts, and Relieving Officers. Most entries contain a reference to a folio in a minute book, most accounts are signed or initialled by the Poor Law Commissioner’s auditor, and some accounts have been signed by the presiding Chairman of the Union. A half year balance sheet follows the accounts detailing the totals carried forward from the various accounts. Some ledgers contain indexes to the various accounts contained therein.

Entries on the debit side of the Treasurer account’s for instance relate to rates, and the credit side contains entries for various items such as salaries, travelling expenses, turf, timber, meal, meat, milk, and coffins.

Accounts for electoral divisions record for instance the amount charged to the division for the *‘Maintenance of it’s own paupers for 18,566 days’*  (PL3/BR1/119, f85).

The Burial Account records the number of funerals charged to each of the electoral divisions in the Union; for instance in September 1850 the cost of 821 funerals cost £123.0.10, split between the divisions, with for example 59 funerals charged to Ballinrobe at a cost of £8.16.10, 34 funerals were charged to Cong, 49 charged to Kilmaine, and 59 charged to Shrule (PL3/BR1/120, f52).

[110]

[111]

112. 3 June 1841 - 29 September 1845 182ff

113. 9 September 1845 - Most of the accounts for the period September 1846 to November 1847

 13 November 1847 have a line scored crossed them, and the preceding balance sheet (f39)

 includes an annotation *‘See New Ledger’*. 144ff

114. 29 September 1846 - 29 September 1847 101ff

115. 29 September 1847 - 25 March 1848; 22 March 1849 92ff

116. 29 March 1848 - Includes note at front of ledger stating *‘First Union Ledger*

 29 September 1848 ever *made up by Thomas May - Clerk of Ballinrobe Union’* 107ff

117. 29 September 1848 - Includes [rough draft of accounts for period October 1949 to

 25 March 1849 ; November 1849].

 29 September 1949 -

 30 November 1849 c.110ff

118. 25 March 1849 - 7 October 1949 137ff

119. 8 October 1849 - 23 February 1850 91ff

120. 23 February 1850 - 29 September 1850 122ff

121. 29 September 1850 - Includes accounts for *‘Ballinrobe Union Former Union Account’*25 March 1851; for 1852-53 and 1853-54(c. f131 and c. f135)

 29 September 1852 -

 25 March 1854 c. 135ff

[122]

123. 25 March 1852 - Includes accounts for several divisions prior to structural changes

 25 March 1853 to Union divisions, such asan account for ‘*Cong* *old Division as*

 *constituted to 23 February 1850’* (f65), also includes ‘*Old Union*

 *Account adjustment of balances according to Liabilities Adjustment*

 *Order’* (f177).

 177ff

(119). 25 March 1853 - 1 September 1853 102ff

124. 29 September 1853 - Includes note relating to the Emigration Account stating *’60 workhouse*

 29 September 1854 ; *Emigrants sailed to Quebec per the “Newbrunswick” on 20 May*

23 January 1855 *1854 from the port of Dublin Arrived at Quebec on the 21st June 1854’* (f109)

 159ff

125. 29 September 1854 - 25 March 1856 175ff

126. 25 March 1856 - 29 September 1857 172ff

127. 29 September 1857 - 25 March 1859 166ff

[128]

[129]

130. 25 March 1862 - 25 March 1863; 26 May 1863 131ff

131. 25 March 1863 - 29 September 1864 190ff

132. 29 September 1864 - Includes at the front of the volume *‘Return showing the poundage*

 25 March 1866 ; *rates made on the several Electoral Divisions of Ballinrobe Union*

 18 April 1866 *from the year 1858, to the year 1865, both years inclusive’* 189ff

133. 25 March 1866 - 29 September 1867 ; 11 November 1867 201ff

134. 29 September 1867 - 25 March 1869; 2 June 1869 192ff

135. 25 March 1869 - Includes in front of volume *‘Return showing the poundage made*

 29 September 1870 ; *in the several Electoral Divisions of the Ballinrobe, Union from the*

 10 February 1871 *year 1858 to the year 1868 inclusive’*. 203ff

[136 – 139]

**II. Contractor’s Ledgers, 1855 - 1865**

Volumes recording details of items ordered by the Union from, and supplied and invoiced by various contractors, such as those supplying general provisions, meat, sweet milk, clothing materials, candles, and turf. Details include date, Board’s order number, quantity ordered, amount in money of Board’s order, invoice number, quantity supplied as per invoices, and amount in money of invoice. Includes in many instances a detailed breakdown of items supplied by various contractors, such as the quantity of wholemeal, Indian meal, oatmeal and flour supplied (PL3/BR1/143, f1).

[140-142]

143. 29 September 1855 - 29 September 1860 210ff

144. 27 September 1860 - 29 September 1865 195ff

[145 – 149]

**III. Petty Disbursement Ledgers, 1861 - 1870**

Volumes of ledgers recording debit and credit entries made under various accounts headings, such as Clerk of Union’s or General Petty Disbursements Account, Invoice, Clothing, Establishment, and Burial accounts. Expenditure is generally for services and items such as ‘... *for carriage to workhouse, of a sick pauper...’* (PL3/BR1/150, f62), *‘...cost of coffin and shroud provided for internment of ...’*  (PL3/BR1/152, 208f), chimney sweeping, white washing, postage stamps, turf, making buckets, cabbage plants, lime. Monthly entries generally include signature of Chairman of the Board.

Average size 200ff.

150. 29 September 1861 - Includes index to payments made on account for various

 25 March 1864 accounts.

151. 25 March 1864 - Includes index to Petty Disbursements Accounts for the

 29 September 1867 various half years recorded in the volume.

152. 29 September 1867 - Includes index to Petty Disbursements Accounts for the

 29 September 1870 various half years recorded in the volume.

[153-159]

**IV. Tradesmen’s Accounts, 1876 - 1917**

160. 4 November 1876 - Volume registering name of tradesman, how employed, days worked

 18 August 1917 each week, total number of days worked during week, wages per

 day, total value of week’s wages, cash paid by Clerk of Union for

 wages, date when paid, signature of Tradesmen acknowledging receipt of

wages, and witness present verifying payment of wages. From September 1891 the signature or mark of the tradesmen acknowledging receipt of wages and witness verifying same is no longer included. Prior to October 1888 includes Auditor’s signature or initials.

Type of work includes carpenter repairs, slater repairs, mason repairs, ‘*making 18 coffins @ 2/6 each, making 4 tables for hospital @ 4/1, making 6 bracket shelves @ 8d’* (6 February 1892), *‘repairing window and lavatory’* (28 September 1901), temporary nurse in fever hospital, farm work, and washing.

 c.100ff

## District Register of Separate Charges, 1879 – 1931

## 161. December 1879 - Volume recording details of three charges to be levied against various

##  1899 ; 1931 electoral divisions (in addition to standard rate) within the district,

##  such as an extra charge against the division of Cong, Dalgan,

##  Houndswood and Shrule for *‘erecting a dispensary house and*

## *residence’* (f1). Details include purpose for which charge was created, contributory place or places on which charge applies, and period for which charge is applicable.

##  1f

**VI. Annual Estimates and Demands, 1900 - 1921**

162.January 1900 - Made by the Union on Mayo County Council, giving details of

 31 March 1914; estimated liabilities and expenditures, estimated probable

 January 1921 revenue, and calculations of the sum required from the Council to

 meet the Board’s expenses for the next financial year . In most cases

 the demands are dated and signed by the Board’s presiding Chairman. The first table gives

details of expenditure or estimated expenditure for the current and ensuing financial year, for items such as maintenance and clothing, workhouse burials, workhouse farm, law and emigration expenses, medical charities, lunacy fees, superannuation and retiring allowance, and repayment of loans. The second table gives details of the revenue or estimated revenue for the current and ensuing financial year from repayment of relief, rents of dispensary residences, and sales of offal, old stores. The third table shows the calculation of the sum required for the ensuing financial year under pre-printed headings such as county liable to contribute towards the expenses of the Guardians, valuation of portion of Union comprised in county, and for both liabilities and revenue the balance or estimated balance against or in favour of the Board at close of the financial year, first half year, second half year, and total, and the net sum required.

Includes signed and sealed copies of the Annual Estimate and Demand form submitted to the Council for the ensuing year 1922.

 16ff

**VII. Abstract of Accounts, 1919**

163. March 1919 – Recording summary details pertaining to various accounts, such as

9 July 1919 revenue account, statement of explanatory of revenue account, additional explanatory statements, loan or capital account, statement of balances, abstract of number and classification of persons relieved and number and cost of emigrants, summary of persons relieved in-

door and out-door, Clerk’s half years statements with statement of cash assets and liabilities

of the Guardians, statement of the loan accounts of the Union, statement of insurance of

Union property against damage by fire, and names and salaries of several offices, names and

superannuation allowances of retired officers. Signed and dated by the auditor, Ellis, Arthur.

Also includes copy letter from Ellis, to the Union enclosing abstracts of the 1919 audited

accounts, and special account of Castlebar Union in account with Ballinrobe Union which

includes a record that ‘*loss occasioned by the immediate sale of certain provisions owing to*

*the occupation of the workhouse by the Military authorities without due notice’*. (c.p9)

 3 items

## VIII. Financial Statement Book of Receipts, 1920 – 1922

164. December 1920 - Volume recording details of income received, on a monthly

 April 1922 basis for each half year, under various headings such as,

 date when lodged with the Treasurer, from whom received,

 particulars of receipt number of receipt, total amount received, money

supplied by County Council, rents of dispensary residences, and sales of farm produce. Receipt from various sources such as Mayo County Council and paying patients for maintenance. Also includes a monthly analysis indicating amount of lodgments to credit the ordinary or loans account. Generally, each statement incorporates a Certificate of the Clerk of the Union confirming the statement is correct and a certificate of confirmation by the Guardians confirming examination, dated and signed by the Chairman, and the Clerk of the Union, generally Walsh, John. Includes hand-written notes with particulars of lodgments for various months.

 10ff

## Services and Material Accounts, Invoices

## and Pay Orders, 1891, 1901, 1913 - 1914

165. 18 June 1891 - Account of expenses issued by Walsh, John, Returning Officer,

 27 July 1891 incurred during the supplemental election for the office of Guardian

 in the electoral division of Dalgan in the Ballinrobe Union, together

 with supporting voucher from Alexander Thom & Company Limited,

 Dublin, printers.

 2 items

166. March 1901 Statement from Dollard, Printing House, Wellington Quay, Dublin

 9 April 1901 to the Union for stationery together with pay order issued by the Union

 in respect of amount outstanding.

 2 items

167. 23 May 1913 - **Colgan, Richard** : File with invoices and statements issue by Colgan

 14 October 1913 to the Union for the supply of various items, such as starch, boot laces,

 and sulphur, and pay order issued by the Union to Colgan. Includes

 annotations indicating account was checked and certified as correct. 18 items

168.28 June 1913 - **Jennings, Martin**: File with purchase orders issued by the Union

 14 October 1913 to Jennings for bacon, statement of account, and pay order issued

by the Union to Jennings. Includes annotations indicating account was checked and certified as correct.

 5 items

169. 26 July 1914 **Burke,** **Bridget**: Statement of account, and pay order issue by the Union

 14 October 1913 to Burke. Includes annotations indicating account was checked and

 certified as correct.

 2 items

170.20 August 1913 - **Knox, Charles Howe, Colonel - Knockfereen rent account:**

 14 October 1913 Pay order issued by Union to R Crawford[agent for Knox] and receipt

 for same. Includes annotations indicating account was checked and

 certified as correct.

 2 items

171.1 September 1913 - **McDermott, Julia** : File with purchase orders issued by the Union

 14 October 1913 to McDermott for various items, such as candles and, porter, statement

 of account, and pay order issued by the Union to McDermott. Includes

 annotations indicating account was checked and certified as correct.

 11 items

172. 1 September 1913 - **Fitzpatrick,Thomas** : File with invoices issued by Fitzpatrick to

 14 October 1913 the Union, and statement of account for the supply of sugar and pay

 order issued by the Union to Fitzpatrick. Includes annotations

 indicating account has been checked and certified as correct.

 6 items

173. 1 September 1913 - **McDermott, Luke** : File with purchase orders issued by the Union

 14 October 1913 to McDermott for meat, statement of account, and pay order issued by

 the Union to McDermott. Includes annotations indicating account was

 checked and certified as correct.

 7 items

174. 6 September 1913 - **Gleeson, Michael.K.** : File with invoices and statements issued by

 14 October 1913 Gleeson to the Union for the supply of various items, such as eggs and

 milk, and pay order issued by the Union to Gleeson.

 7 items

175. 6 September 1913 - **Hughes, Margaret**: File with purchase orders issued by the Union to

 14 October 1913 Hughes for the supply of bread and butter, statement of account, and pay

 order issued by the Union to Hughes. Includes annotations indicating

 account has been checked and certified as correct.

 7 items

176. 6 September 1913 - **Keane, Henry** : File with invoices and statements issued by Keane

 17 March 1914 to the Union for the supply of various items, such as pork, butter, and

 brandy, and pay orders issued by the Union to Keane.

 28 items

177. 23 September 1913 - **Fitzgerald, Dr James, Roundfort** : File with letters and pay order

 14 October 1913 issued by the Union to Dr Fitzgerald for anaesthetising patients and assisting with operations in the Workhouse hospital.

 3 items

178. 2 October 1913 - **Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Dump, Lower Sackville Street,**

14 October 1913 **Dublin :** Invoice issued by theInstitution to the Union for the

 maintenance and education of a *‘deaf mute’,* together with a pay order

 issued by the Union to the Institution.

 2 items

179. 6 October 1913 - **Murphy, P, Ballinrobe** : File with invoices issued by Murphy to the

 17 February 1914 Union following order and supply of items, such as towels and shirts,

 and includes pay orders issued by the Union. Includes annotations

 indicating account was checked and certified as correct.

 11 items

180. 14 October 1913 Pay order issued by the Union to Dr J Hopkins, Castlebar.

 1 item

181. 31 October 1913 - **Feerick, Patrick** : File with invoice and statement issued by Feerick

 11 November 1913 to the Union for the supply of straw, and pay order issued by the Union to Feerick. Includes annotations indicating account was checked and certified as correct.

 3 items

182. 13 December 1913 - **Cullinane, John** : File with statement issued by Cullinane

 16 December 1913 to the Union for the supply of items of clothing, and pay order issued by the Union to Cullinane. Includes annotations indicating account was checked and certified as correct.

 2 items

183. 3 February 1914 **Curley, Hugh** : File with invoice issued by Curley to the Union for the

 17 February 1914 supply of clothing and clothing material, and pay order issued by the Union to Curley.

 2 items

## X. Medicine File, 1907

184.18 April 1907 - Primarily with combined standard requisition and invoice forms, with

 9 March 1908 requisitions completed and issued by the Medical Officers of the

 dispensary districts of Ballinrobe, Cappaghduff, Cong, Hollymount

 and Ballinrobe Workhouse to the R Sumner & Co. Ltd., (50a Lord

 Street, Liverpool, England) for various medicines, and invoice for the goods supplied issued by

Sumner to the Union. The form is signed and dated by the medical officers requesting the medicines, and by the presiding Chairman and Clerk of the Union indicating approval to proceed with order, the invoice is signed and dated by Sumner indicating the goods were duly supplied, and is further dated confirming the medicines were duly received by the dispensary or workhouse. The requisition in standard format, lists various medicines, the prescribed price, and the quantity required, and the invoice section, completed by the Contractor (Sumner), lists the quantity supplied at prescribed price, and amount calculated at prescribed price and cost of packages. Most forms have been annotated as ‘Original’ and all have been date stamped by the Audit Department of the Local Government Board, indicating that as required the Clerk of the Union submitted the forms to the Board *‘with the claim for recoupment’*. File also includes pay orders issued by the Union to Sumner & Co. Orders have also been dated stamped by the Audit Department of the Local Government Board.

 19 items

## XI. Certificate of Order for Payment, 1913

185. 27 September 1913 Signed and issued by two Justices of the Peace to the Union

confirming that Dr Hopkins, Medical Officer, certified an individual as a ‘*Dangerous Lunatic*’ and ordering that he be paid ‘*for his loss of time and professional services examining’* the individual.

**CLOSED** 1p

**C. Letter Books**

## I. Incoming Letter Books, 1886 - 1887

Volumes of letters from various institutions, in particular from the Local Government Board, Dublin, and individuals to the Union, generally addressed to the Clerk of the Union regarding Union business and administration.

Include letters such as from the Local Government Board noting that from a report issued by the Local Government Inspector it appears that *‘a system has obtained in the workhouse for some time past of registering deaths in the Hospital on the day following that on which they actually take place, and Mr Robinson* (Inspector) *states that he has informed the Master with reference to this matter that he must be held responsible for inaccuracies appearing in the record of deaths and the workhouse register*’. (14 January 1885); letters regarding the ‘Hessian Fly’, an insect which was terribly destructive to corn crops in American (29 October 1886 and 20 April 1887); and letters regarding the *‘the maximum weekly allowance of Out door Relief that can be granted to persons who have been evicted from their holdings...’* (15 December 1886) ; also includes various circular letters from the Local Government Board such as one requesting *‘Returns of persons relieved in the Union during the week ending...*’ (28 January 1887), and regarding the annual appointment of Dispensary Committees and Wardens (5 April 1887), and regarding night lodgers in the workhouse (2 June 1887) ; includes sealed copy of Order from the Board *‘prescribing... certain Forms which may be used for the purposes of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts*’ (21 March 1887) *;* includes letter from the General Valuation and Boundary Survey Officer, Dublin regarding the Annual Revision of the Valuation of the Union (8 March 1887) ; letter from Hennelly, Patrick (Shrule) stating *‘I have been nominated as candidate for the office of Guardian for the Electoral Division of Shrule.... It is a fact that nine votes of parties now in America were recorded for my opponent, four votes from parties who are not rated also fourteen papers served and taken up the one day, which of course is illegal*. *The majority given for my opponent is given as fourteen...’* (26 March 1885); letter from Crawford, R.T., Auctioneer, Ballinrobe regarding the site for and construction of labourer’s cottages in Shrule (13 December 1886) ; letter of petition signed by three Relieving Officers requesting the Board to be *‘so good as to remunerate us*’ for extra work imposed upon them in assisting the Clerk of the Union prepare the Register of Voters (13 January 1887) ; letter from Cowan, R.C., County Surveyor’s Office, Westport regarding a defective sewer in Kilmaine (11 March 1887) ; and letter from Daly, W., Solicitor stating *...I am still solicitor* (to the Union) *until I am legally removed from that office which must be done by a notice of motion correctly spelled, grammatical and intelligible, and not by a spurious document* (see 31 March 1887) *such as emanated from the intellectual representative* (O’Doyle, Patrick) *of Kilmaine Electoral’* (20 April 1887).

186. 10 May 1885 - 7 May 1885 c.80pp

187.20 October 1886 - Includes copy of Order from the House of Commons regarding

 20 August 1887 *‘a Return of the Scale of Dietary in force in each Union Workhouse*

 *in Ireland*’ (11 July 1887).

 c. 110pp

## II. Copy Out-Going Letter Books, 1907 - 1915

Volumes of primarily hand-written damp press copy out-going letters from the Union to various institutions and individuals, such as the Local Government Board, Mayo County Council, Congested District Board, solicitors, merchants and suppliers, printers, land owners, and families of former hospital patients requesting payment *‘..for maintenance...’*, and to Union officers such as Medical Officers, Relieving Officers, and rate collectors relating to all aspects of Union business and administration.

Includes copy letter from Walsh, John to the Secretary of Mayo County Councilstating ‘.*.. I herewith send you Estimate and Demands of the Board of Guardians and Rural District Council of Ballinrobe on the Mayo County Council for the financial year ending 31st March 1908...’* (PL3/BR1/188, p94) ; letter to the Congested District Board, 23 Rutland Square, Dublin stating *‘I ... apply to you for the sum of £29:11:0 for the maintenance and medical and surgical treatment in the Ballinrobe Workhouse Infirmary of the following persons, for injuries received in a dynamite explosion in January 1908 ...’* (PL3/BR1/188, p513) ; and letters regarding boarded out children, such as *‘..if the boarded out child.... is not sent more regularly to school the Guardians will be completed to have this child removed from your custody as it appears from the school Teachers Certificates the school attendance of this child is very irregular.’* (PL3/BR1/188, p942).

Also letters signed by Walsh, J as Superintendent Registrar (for Births, Deaths and Marriages), such as one to the Registrar General stating *‘...relative to the alteration in Col. 3 of Birth Certificate dated September 15, 1908 issued to Mrs Elenor Fahey of Ballinrobe and to state that Mrs Fahey admits having altered the Christian names to read Mary Clare. The entry in register is Mary Ellen...*; (PL3/BR1/188, p528)

Volumes include index to addressees. Letters are generally signed by Walsh, John, Clerk of the Union. Several letters are marked ‘cancelled’.

Also includes letters signed by Walsh, John as Secretary of Ballinrobe Rural District Council.

Size 1,000pp.

188. 14 September 1907 - 9 August 1910

189. 15 August 1910 - 15 April 1914

III. Copy Outgoing Letter Books, 1922

**See**

**R2/BR1/….**

Volumes of hand-written copy outgoing letters from the RDC and (Ballinrobe

Poor Law Union) to various institutions and individuals, such as to Mayo Co. Co.,

Local Government Department, insurance companies, and banks relating to Council

business and administration. Letters to the Local Government Department are

addressed to Dail Eireann, at 76 Harcourt Street, or Government Buildings, Dublin.

 9 August 1922 – Includes copy of resolution passed by the RDC stating

 25 November 1922 *it ‘determine that we hold our meetings once a month*

 *in future. We do this to secure a better attendance of*

 *members at meetings..’* (p185).

 196pp

**D. Legal Matters**

## I. Solicitors’ Costs Files, 1900 - 1903

190. 7 April 1900 - **Kirwan, Solicitor - Outstanding Costs:** Material primarily letters

(see also 4 March 1903 from Kirwan, T.F., Solicitor, Ballinrobe and his solicitor, Edmond

R2/BR1) Barry, Westport to the Union (and Ballinrobe Rural District Council)

 regarding outstanding monies owed to Kirwan, including a bill of costs

outlining work undertaken by Kirwan on behalf of the Union in several outstanding legal cases brought by and against the Union (4 March 1903).

 10 items

191. 10 June 1901 - **Tuohy, Solicitor - Outstanding Costs :**  Material from Tuohy,

 18 December 1901 George F., Solicitor, Ballinrobe, and his solicitor Barry, Edmond

 Westport to the Union (and Ballinrobe Rural District Council)

 regarding outstanding monies owned to Tuohy.

 6 items

## II. Claims against the Union

## (Defendants), 1900 - 1903

192. 2 October 1900 - **Maher, John - Superannuation Claim**  : Material, primarily

 7 November 1900 letters from Bergin, Michael S., Solicitor, 68 Dame Street, Dublin,

 to the Union, regarding claim for payment of superannuation

 allowances made to Maher by the Union in 1868 but which the Union

 *‘refuse to pay ... as they believe he* (Maher) *is dead...’* (2 October 1900).

 4 items

193. 28 June 1900 - **McGuire, Edward & Byrne, Michael – recovery of outstanding**

(see also 20 August 1900 **labour costs:** Material primarily letters from Tuohy, T.F., solicitor,

199) to the Union regarding payment of costs to witnesses subpoenaed by

 Tuohy on behalf of the Union to attend the Castlebar Assizes on 17 July.

 Also includes Judgement forms signed by the presiding Judge, and court

 Registrar.

 5 items

194. 17 October 1900 Memorandum from Barry, Edmond, solicitor, Westport to Walsh, John

 John, Clerk of Union requesting his attendance in Court in an

 ejectment on title case, requesting Walsh *‘... not to disappoint me’*.

 1 item

195. 1 October 1900 - **English, Martin - compensation claim for lost of property:** File

 13 October 1900 of letters from Tuohy, George F., Solicitor (solicitor for claimant), and

 Kirwan, T.F., (Union’s solicitor) to the Union regarding claim for cost

 of clothes detained during English’s hospitalisation, and counter claim

 by the Union for recovery of hospital maintenance costs.

 4 items

196. 31 March 1902 **Mahon, Dr -**  letter from Kirwan, T.F., to the Board regarding the

 case and recommending the Board to *‘adopt a scale of fees to be allowed*

 *in cases of this kind…’*. Includes note on the Board’s decision regarding

 an appeal.

 1 item

197. 18 April 1902 **Molloy, Winifred – payment of outstanding monies:**  letter from

(see also Tuohy, George F., Solicitor for plaintiff, to the Union for monies

199, 200) owed for ‘*keeping in repair the workhouse pump.’*

1 item

198. 3 June 1903 **Hanrahan, Dr – claim for payment for services**: letter from

 O’Robinson, [Solicitor] Stephen’s Green, Dublin applying for payment

 due to Hanrahan for *‘attendance at the Workhouse Hospital’*. Includes

 annotation *‘Replied to 9th June 1903’.*

 1 item

**III. Claims Pursued by the Union (Plaintiffs)**

**against Third Parties, 1902 - 1903**

199. 6 October 1902 **Byrne, Michael – breach of discipline and workhouse rules -**

(see also 17August 1903File of letters from Kirwan to the Union regarding the case

193, 197) including letter advising Byrne was *‘convicted ordered to be*

 *imprisoned in Castlebar Jail for one calendar month with hard labour’*

 (17 August 1903).

4 items

200. 10 November 1902 **Cases claiming maintenance for children in the workhouse:**

(see also 11 May 1903 letters from Kirwan to the Union.

197 4 items

**E. Workhouse Administration**

## I. Scrapbook of Notices and Advertisements, 1885 - 1925

201. 1885 – 1925 Submitted, and drafts to be submitted, by the Union and Ballinrobe

 Rural District Council and printed on their behalf in various newspapers

 relating to Union and Council business, such as the convening of special

meetings, invitations for tenders for various contracts, such as for the supply of tea, coal and turf, tenders for *‘the Boring and Sinking of a Well at Roundfort’* (28 September, 1895), tenders for the repair of clocks, and building maintenance or repair work, and for the *‘Construction of a Sewer*’ (24 October, 1893), applications for various staff vacancies, such as for Relieving Officers, burial ground caretakers, chimney sweepers, and hospital nurses, together with notices advising details of agreed rates for the forthcoming year, public notices and warnings, such as Rules and Regulations for the regulation of burial grounds (6 July, 1888).

 c.70pp

## II. Miscellaneous Forms, 1886 - 1889

202. 1 November 1886 - Bound volume containing transcripts of standard receipts and forms

1 March 1889 used by the Union. Initially contains copy of standard receipts for

 various items and services, such as ‘*Publishing Union Advertisements’*

 (f11), *‘Service of Notices on Vaccination defaulters’* (f11) *‘Salary of Clerk of Burial Board’* (f12), and ‘*grazing’* (f12). Thereafter contains transcripts of various lists, standard forms and copy published notices, such as list of fees and expenses incurred by the Board for holding the election of Guardians (1882) (f14), ‘Form of Notice of Claim to be rated’ (f50), Form of Notice on Relieving Officer to lodge with the Treasurer balance retained on his hands’(f50), list of burial grounds vested in the Board, in 1874, by the Church under the Irish Church Act (f51), list of Justices of the Peace to whom election notices were forwarded; (f54), Return showing the number of Agricultural holdings valued at various amounted in the Union (f67), list of ex-offico guardians of the Union showing their ratings (1881) (f75), and returns showing the expenditure of out-door relief chargeable to each electoral division (f77).

 c.77pp

**III. Chaplain’s Book, 1900 - 1921**

203. 19 June 1900 - Volume with entries signed and completed by the Chaplain recording

 11 November 1921 the date and purpose of visits to the workhouse, such as for the

 celebration of Divine Service, hearing of confession, visiting sick,

 administering of last sacraments, and examining and teaching catechism

 to the children. Entry often includes name of inmate(s) visited.

 c120ff

**IV. Requirement Book, 1905 - 1920**

204. 3 April 1905 - Bound volume recording details of articles or services required by the

11 October 1920 Union, with the Chairman of the Board of Guardians’ authorisation to

 acquire the item. Details are recorded under headings such as date,

 requisition of articles required (other than provisions and necessaries) or

work to be done, estimated cost, office held by person making the requisition, officer by whom the Order is to be issued and initials of presiding Union Chairman. Examples of articles and work include cabbage plants, repairs to men’s & boys cloths, stationery, gravel, mugs, knives, egg cups, white wash brushes, rat trap, and window hangings.

 188pp

**V. Diary, 1908 - 1909**

1. 2 January 1908 – Maintained by [Clerk to Union] recording on a daily basis various

 1 January 1909 transactions and work carried out, such as payments made or the

 dispatch of letters or notices to various persons together with the cost

 involved. For example entries include items such as ‘Cheques to

 Dr Blake, Hanrahan & Semple’ (Medical Officers) (14 February), ‘Letters to Secretary Congested

 D. Board’ (28 February), ‘List of Polling Stations to T S Moclair’ (Returning Officer) (4 May);

 ‘Circulars to Guardians’ (11 June), and ‘Postcard to Mark Duffy re repairs to Cong Dispensary’

 (4 August).

 107pp**VI. Drapery Stock Books, 1916 - 1917**

Volumes maintained by the workhouse recording for each half year the quantity and value of drapery, such as sheets, blanks, feather pillows, petticoats, shirts, frocks, and aprons, maintained in various locations, such as school mistress’s room, hospital wards, able bodied men’s ward, condemned clothing, and clothing in wear, also includes summary of stock clothing and valuation.

Average size 42pp.

206. 30 September 1916

207. 31 March 1917, Includes signatures of Hughes, John, Miller, James, and

 9 April 1917 Farrahger, Pat.

**VII. Clothing Materials Receipt and**

**Conversion Book, 1916 - 1919**

208. 1 October 1915 - Bound volume recording details of quantity of material received and

 11 November 1919 used such as flannel, linen, tweed, check, shrouding, buttons, and

 sheeting, and converted for use for items such as *‘for hospital*

 *bandages’* (f1), *‘shrouding for 12 bodies’* (f33), *‘10 women’s aprons’*

 (f47), and *‘1 man’s waistcoat’* (f72). An account for each different type of material is

maintained separately for each half-year, recording the balance of material on hand, and recording receipt details under the headings date, received from who, number of invoice, quantity, and date converted, into what, quantity used and folio of clothing receipt book. A summary of all material on hand at the end of a half-year is also included, and generally signed by three members of the Visiting Committee.

 152ff

**VIII. Porter’s Books, 1916 - 1921**

Bound volumes recording date and time individuals enter and leave the workhouse, details are recorded under the headings, date, name of Officers or other person, business, time of entering workhouse, time of going out of workhouse, time of return to the workhouse and observations. Details under business include to mass, to deliver milk, to see daughter, to see a patient, and admitted to hospital.

209. 5 August 1916 - 4 December 1917 450pp

[210]

211. 20 August 1920 - 5 December 1921 313pp

## IX. Register of Persons Receiving Tobacco, 1917 – 1921

212. 30 September 1917 - Volume recording individual’s name and amount of money received

 30 September 1921 for each week (for tobacco).

 14ff

## X. Stationery Supply Catalogue

## and Price List, [1908]

213. [1908] Printed catalogue listing the various forms, books and registers supplied

 by Dollar, Printing House, Dublin Ltd., available to and used by the

 administration of local government boards, with prices hand-written

 adjacent to items description.

 1 item **F. Workhouse Infirmary**

## I. Record of Deaths, 1906 - 1919

214. 5 May 1906 - Forms recording number in register, date of death, cause of death,

 31 March 1907; name of deceased, whether male or female, age, and date of last

 4 April 1914 - admission to workhouse. Includes total number of deaths for half

 31 March 1915; year. Causes of death includes senile decay, rickets, bronchitis, and

 5 April 1918 - intestinal obstruction meningitis.

 31 March 1919 6pp

## II. Medical Weekly Return and Extra Dietary Intake Book, 1916 - 1921

215. 12 August 1916 - Recording patient details and extra daily dietary intake prescribed by

26 February 1921 the Medical Officer over and above the Ordinary scale of dietary for the sick. Diet is broken into bread, meat, milk, brandy, whiskey or gin, porter, eggs, tea, cornflower, and butter. Details are recorded

under headings such as register number, name of patient, disease, age, days of week when

attended and number of diet, directions of the Medical Officer. Most records are certified by

the Medical Officer, and signed by the Union Clerk certifying the record has been examined

and compared with the corresponding entries in the Daily Diet Book.

 40ff

## III. Provisions and Necessaries Supplied

## to Infirmary, 1916 - 1917

216. 16 December 1916 - Loose pages detailing date and quantity of bread, butter, milk, meat,

 23 March 1917 eggs, sugar, tea, oatmeal and gin supplied to the infirmary. Also includes

 hand-written notes from McCormack, W.J., to the Master listing

 requirements, and recording on reverse the actual quality and date supplied. 14 items

**G. OUT DOOR RELIEF**

## I. Out-door Relief Registers, 1874 - 1926

217. 25 March 1874 - Volume maintained by the Union recording a list of persons in

 29 September 1883 receipt of out-door relief in the Ballinrobe and Hollymount,

 Cappaghduff relief districts. Details are recorded under headings

 such as name of person, electoral division to which chargeable, townlands in which resident,

 weekly allowance of out-door relief, dated when first relieved, dated up to which relief has been

 form time to time continued by the Board of Guardians and remarks.

 c.130ff

218. 4 May 1899 - Volume maintained by the Union recording details relating to persons

 18 May 1926 who received out-door relief, under headings such as, date of application

 for relief, date when received, name, and address, sex, age, employment,

 married or single, name of wife or husband, number of children, and

 date when discharged from relief. Includes index.

 29pp

## II. Out-door Relief Order, Admission

## and Discharge Book, 1906 - 1907

219. [ ], Volume maintained by the Union recording details relating to the value

 20 January 1906 - of relief distributed by Relieving Officers, under headings such as

 18 May 1907 name of Relieving Officer, name of person or of head of family

 relieved, persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old

 age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, widows having two or more

 legitimate children dependent upon them, persons temporarily disabled from labour, persons

 relieved provisionally by Relieving Officers, orphans and deserted children boarded out, total

 number relieved, value of relief ordered or allowed by Guardians, whether in kind or in

money, and for what time ordered or allowed. Also includes some summary details such as

 total number of new admissions and re-admissions during the week, total during the week

 discharges and deaths, and the numbers remaining receiving relief. The first entries are undated.

Includes ‘*Summary of No.s to be carried forward for half year ending 31st March 1907’* recording the number of cases and persons receiving relief from each of the Relieving Officers.

 c.120pp

1. Meghen, P. J. *The Development of Irish Local Government* p339 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. O’Connor, John *The* *Workhouses of Ireland* p259 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Hamrock Ivor *Famine in Mayo 1845 –* 185 0, p49 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Mayo County Council Minute Books M15/7, p458 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. O’Connor John *The Workhouses of Ireland,* p198 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. \* This is not a definitive list, nor does it give dates of membership [↑](#footnote-ref-6)